Sunday, September 30, 2007 ★★ 19 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 294 P20 website: www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER

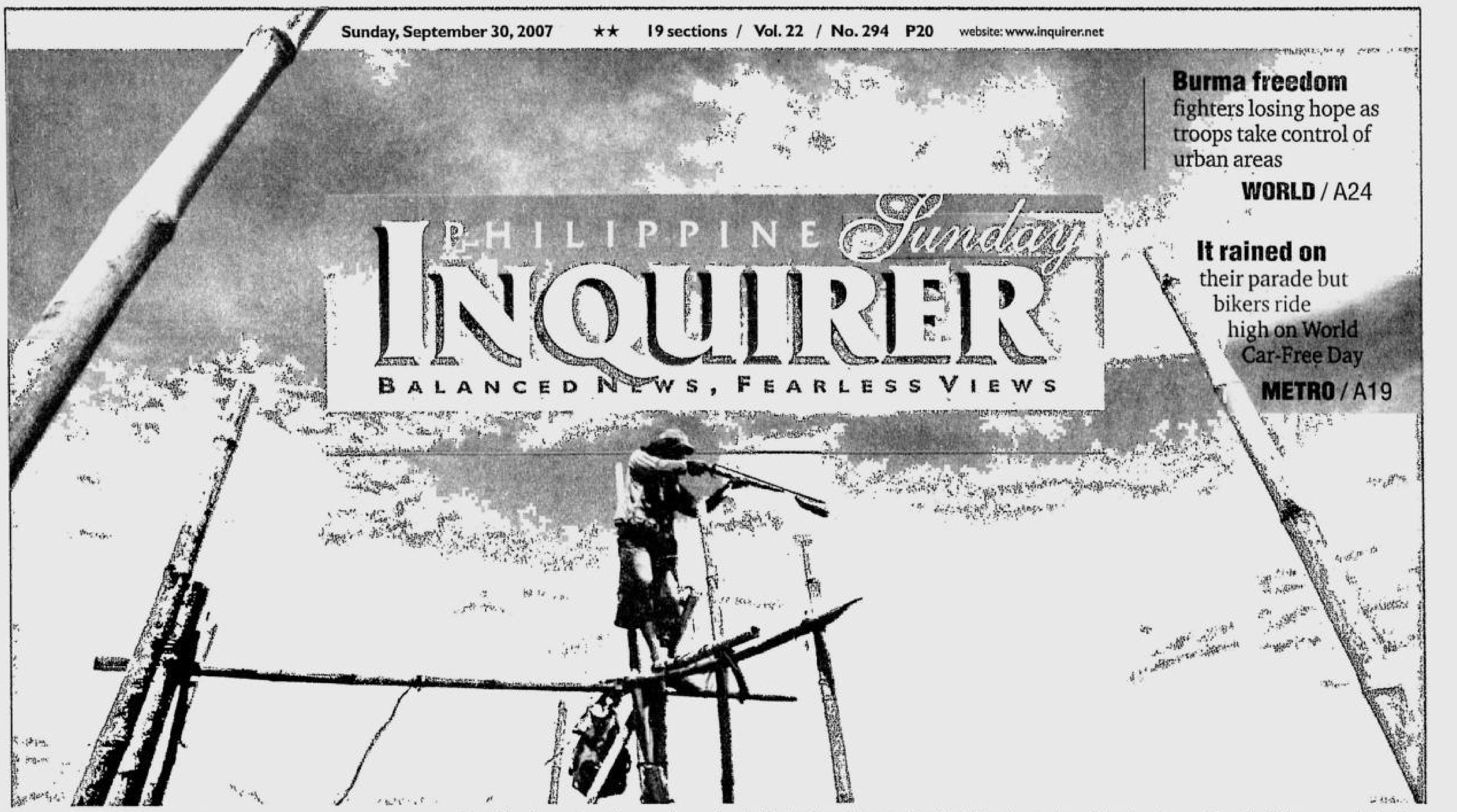
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Burma freedom fighters losing hope as troops take control of urban areas

WORLD / A24

It rained on their parade but bikers ride high on World Car-Free Day

METRO / A19



THE COMPLEAT ANGLER: Under dazzlingly blue skies, a man casts his fishing line as far as it can go into a river in Taguig. How? By attaching his fishing line to the pellet of an air gun. Once fired, there goes hook, line and sinker far into the water. Is this any way to go fishing? It's extreme fishing of sorts.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Neri was ready to talk

But Joker in senators' executive session reportedly butted in

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, ROMULO NERI WAS "ON THE verge" of telling senators the rest of his explosive story on the supposed lobbying and bribery in the $329-million telecommunications deal with China's ZTE Corp. when an administration senator and a Cabinet member intervened, several INQUIRER sources said yesterday.

The former secretary general of the National Economic and Development Authority reportedly told a friend before the executive (or closed-door) session that followed the Wednesday hearing at the Senate that what he knew could "possibly" lead to the "downfall" of his boss, President Macapagal-Arroyo.

According to the four sources of the INQUIRER, Neri was ready to answer the senators' questions when Sen. Joker Arroyo intervened. (The sources all declined to speak on the record in deference to the gag rule governing executive sessions.)

Arroyo reportedly made a motion to allow Neri to avail himself of the legal counsel of his choice.

NERI WAS/ A9

GMA: Use woman power to free Aung San Suu Kyi

By Christine O. Avendaño

NEW YORK (VIA PLDT)—PRESident Macapagal-Arroyo has suggested that the world's women leaders employ "woman power" to obtain the release of detained Burmese prodemocracy leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

At the 3rd Women Leaders' Working Group (WLWG) meeting on Friday, led by United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, the President said the women should team up in pleading with Burma (Myanmar) to free Suu Kyi who has been in and out of detention since 1990 and is currently being held in near-solitary confinement in her home.

Earlier that day, Ms Arroyo addressed the United Nations General Assembly during which she called on Burma "to return to the path of democracy and release Aung San Suu Kyi."

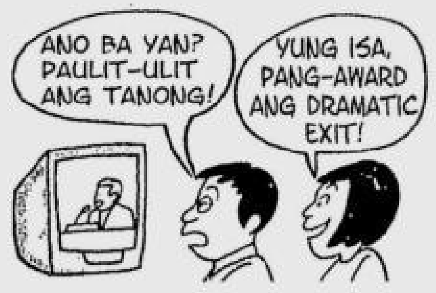
In a briefing with reporters, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that Ms Arroyo suggested that the women leaders as a group write a letter to the Burmese government asking for Suu Kyi's freedom.

He said the group of women agreed to the President's proposal but did not give details, such as when the letter would be written and when it would be sent to the Burmese regime.

GMA: USE/ A10

REYNALDO JARDOZA/CONTRIBUTOR

"MAMA, MAMA, I'M HERE," former President Estrada calls out softly to his mother, Mary Ejercito, 102, at the San Juan Medical Center on Saturday. It was his first visit since he was convicted on Sept. 12 on two counts of plunder. Before the verdict, he had sought out his mother to ask for her blessing. She has been confined to hospital for weeks. *(Story on Page A6.)*


ANO BA YAN? PAULIT-ULIT ANG TANONG!
YUNG ISA, PANG-AWARD ANG DRAMATIC EXIT!

Senators on NBN-ZTE probe telenovela: That's infotainment

By Edmund L. Sicam
Contributor

THE TV COVERAGE OF THE SENATE hearings into the controversial National Broadband Network (NBN) project early this week may have lured audiences away from their usual daytime fare because of the hearings' entertainment value.

If entertainment TV has Joey de Leon and Willie Revillame exchanging brickbats over Revillame's faux pas on "Wowowee," the NBN hearings had Sen. Richard Gordon feuding with Sen. Alan Cayetano over the latter's handling of the proceedings.

Joey's "Explain before you complain" has its counterpart in the Senate's "Sec, *may* 200 *ka dito*" or Sen. Miriam Santiago's "The Chinese in-

SENATORS/ A8

Math can prevent violence, says RP physicist

By Queena N. Lee-Chua
Columnist

AFTER THE 9/11 ATTACKS IN THE United States, I visited a Muslim vendor at the Greenhills Shopping Center *tiangge*. I asked her if she had experienced any repercussions, but she assured me: "We are fine. We are all friends here."

For many years, Muslim and Christian stall owners have been engaged in friendly competition, as they ply their trade side by side.

At an international conference, I asked a Singapore educator how their country had managed to remain peaceful despite the variety of ethnic groups and religions there.

He replied: "Chinese, Malay, Indian, Muslim, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu—we grow up together. In school, each group can choose to learn its own dialect and its own faith, but everyone is required to mingle with each other, and all students must learn English. We respect one another's religions; our temples, churches, mosques are near each other."

Violence is typically the subject of sociology or psychology.

My classes at Ateneo de Manila University study violence in terms of prejudice, groupthink, aggressive instincts.

MATH/ A10

Art therapy healing for AFP's wounded warriors

By Margaux C. Ortiz

PVT. MELIANO CALANGIAN PAINTS butterfly wings and for a few hours he forgets the worst day of his life.

The 20-year-old soldier lost his right leg in an encounter with communist rebels in Aurora, Quezon, and has been reliving that fateful day since his confinement at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center (AFPMC) four months ago.

"Painting is a good way to spend time here," Calangian shyly told the INQUIRER on Sunday.

Before they brought in canvas, paints and brushes, soldiers in the hospital's orthopedic section would try to take their mind off the pain through exercise, by watching movies on video or playing chess.

The opportunity to heal themselves through art—offered in a two-day "paint fest" at the AFPMC on Sept. 22-23—was a totally new experience for the broken soldiers.

"I always liked art as a child. I'm glad to be able to do this again," Calangian said in a soft voice, smiling at the other soldiers, who were also busy painting.

The activity dubbed "Chula's Paintfest Para Sa Kawal (Chula's Paintfest for the Soldier)," was named after Carolina "Chula" Sembrano, the third daughter of former President Fidel V. Ramos.

"My sister suffered a severe traumatic brain injury four years ago, when she got hit by a truck while crossing

ART/ A10

Faithful hail Lorenzo Ruiz on 20th year of sainthood

By Beverly T. Natividad

THE CATHOLIC FAITHFUL, THROUGH the intercession of saints, ask for good health, a rich spouse, even the winning lotto numbers.

But if it's strength they need to make great sacrifices, they turn to the first Filipino saint, San Lorenzo Ruiz.

This year, Lorenzo Ruiz celebrates the 20th anniversary of his canonization in 1987.

This simple Chinoy Church *escribano* (scribe) from Binondo is also the patron saint of Filipino migrant

FAITHFUL/ A8

JOB Market
Your ride to success right here

Once dismissed as shameless attempt at self-promotion, blogs have now become respectable websites with bloggers perceived to be highly literate and upwardly mobile people

SUNDAY MAGAZINE

The best of both worlds: Where to go to get lost all day in the virtual world without going hungry in the real world.

SUNDAY MAGAZINE

From a rich and famous lifestyle, the once-spoiled Snooky Serna says she has learned to scale down, to be humble

ENTERTAINMENT / G1

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The western sections of Northern and Central Luzon will experience rains with occasional gusty winds and the coastal waters over these areas will be moderate to rough. The western section of Southern Luzon and Western Visayas will have monsoon rains while the rest of the country will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Gusty Winds	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Gusty Winds	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Gusty Winds	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/09/29/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

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Second FRONTPAGE

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(In exact order)

Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening

5 3 7 | 6 2 2

6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN

6 9 11 21 27 35

₱8,865,322.20

Senators are working—Villar

Defensive posture sparked by Joker criticism of NBN probe

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

STUNG BY CRITICISM THAT THE SENATE WAS SPENDING TOO MUCH time on its investigation of the controversial $329 million National Broadband Network (NBN) deal with China's ZTE Corp., Senate President Manuel Villar Jr. yesterday defended the upper chamber's legislative work, saying the NBN probe had not affected other Senate priorities.

Villar said the Senate was attending to budget hearings and rushing priority laws, including the Cheaper Medicines Act before it goes on a break from Oct. 13 to Nov. 4.

"We greatly appreciate the cooperation and hard work put in by my colleagues at the committee level and during plenary sessions to make the first two months of the 14th Congress fruitful," he said.

Villar's statement came on the heels of Sen. Joker Arroyo's reported remark that the Senate inquiry into the NBN project had taken the Senate's attention away from its other legislative duties.

"The questions have become repetitive. Why don't we have time for our other work?," Arroyo was quoted as saying.

"I think we have so much time for the investigations and very little time for legislative work," he complained.

Arroyo had wanted the Senate investigation stopped, saying the Supreme Court had already been asked to nullify the NBN deal for being disadvantageous to the government.

Fellow administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago had also said the Senate should pass on to the Ombudsman the job of investigating the bribery allegations in the NBN deal.

In his testimony at the Senate, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, whose firm lost the contract to ZTE, had accused Commission on Election Chair Benjamin Abalos of offering him $10 million to back out of the NBN project.

Former Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri also testified that he was offered P200 million by Abalos to approve the project.

Hearings into the NBN project were held on Sept. 18, 20, 26 and 27. The hearings lasted at least six hours each.

The Sept. 26 hearing lasted 10 hours, the longest in memory since the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada in 2000.

Several senators who attended the probe, shuttled between budget and other committee hearings that were held simultaneously.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **'HANNA'** weakens but more rains seen /A6
- **HK GROUP SAYS** writ of amparo not enough /A7
- **GENERAL** Miranda not so sick—AFP /A7

Come visit, GMA tells United Nations chief

By Christine O. Avendaño

NEW YORK (VIA PLDT)—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has invited United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, whom she described as a "good friend of the Philippines," to visit Manila.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Friday President Arroyo extended the invitation to Ban in a brief meeting yesterday, shortly after she delivered the Philippines' report to the 62nd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

"If you remember Ban-Ki Moon used to be the foreign minister of Korea and during that time he was supportive of the international initiatives of the Philippines," Bunye told reporters at UN headquarters.

During her speech at the GA, Ms Arroyo congratulated Ban on his election to the top UN post.

"Congratulations also to our Secretary General ... who was such a good friend of the Philippines when he was foreign minister of the Republic of Korea," she said.

Ms Arroyo's speech before the world body was the highlight of her three-day visit to New York.

Before leaving to board a flight back to Manila, Ms Arroyo took time out to chat with some 600 Filipinos employed at the UN headquarters. She posed for pictures with them and thanked them for the work they were doing.

Wrapping up Ms Arroyo's visit to New York, Bunye said the President had been "very successful in conveying to our international audience and stakeholders the good message about what's happening in the Philippines."

"You know the nice news about the Philippines tends to get drowned out by the chronic political noise in Manila. But when you talk to businessmen, for example, the members of the Philippine-American chamber of commerce, they're all very bullish, they're very optimistic about the Philippines," Bunye said.

UPLB R & D Program on Jatropha and Biofuels

Luis Rey I. Velasco, *Chancellor, University of the Philippines Los Baños*
and the UPLB R & D Teams on Jatropha and Biofuels

Jatropha curcas, more commonly known as *tuba-tuba* in the Philippines, is increasingly catching the attention of Filipinos as a promising source of alternative fuel. Jatropha is not a strange crop among Filipino farmers, for it is already part of the rural farming landscape being used for other traditional uses. Hence, many farmers are now looking at Jatropha as a potential economic crop. However, while not yet mainstreamed as a viable source of biodiesel, Jatropha already seems to be successful in fueling a controversy on its viability.

Quite recently on September 9, 2007, the Talk of the Town section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer carried the article "Jatropha: What the public should know" authored by Professors Ted Mendoza, Oscar Zamora and Joven Lales of the College of Agriculture, University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB). The article was published presumably to caution the public about Jatropha, and coming from renowned agricultural scientists, this generated mixed reaction from the public. Although these scientists belong to UPLB, their study results should not be taken as UPLB's definitive position on the matter. Rather, it would be prudent to consider these as the authors' inputs to the issues relative to the ongoing build-up of scientific knowledge and experience on Jatropha.

At this point in time, UPLB's position is to continue to vigorously pursue research and development on Jatropha and biofuels and encourage relevant stakeholders to look beyond current limitations in search for solutions to current concerns—the essence of scientific research and development.

We believe that science-based knowledge is an indispensable foundation upon which a sustainable alternative fuel program should rest. As the leading research university in the country whose areas of distinctive excellence are in agriculture, biotechnology and the environment, UPLB has put together an R & D program on Jatropha and Biofuels which is being carried out with support from various institutions including the PNOC Alternative Fuels Corporation, DOST-PCARRD, CHED and the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) of the Department of Agriculture. There are also collaborations with the DENR Philippine Forest Corporation, 17 State Colleges and Universities (SUCs) and the private sector.

The UPLB alternative fuels R & D program is anchored on our commitment to ensure that the growing biofuel industry will have the appropriate science and technology support. Currently, our R & D program is being run by teams of scientists working on Jatropha, bioethanol, biogas, solar, hydroenergy, wind and biomass, among others, as alternative sources of energy. For Jatropha, studies are being conducted with respect to germplasm collections; varietal improvement; component technologies with respect to plant propagation, pruning, flower and fruiting management, fertility management, pests and diseases management; farming systems; plantation management; post-production technologies; and processing of biodiesel and byproducts. UPLB with CHED support is coordinating the provenance testing of Jatropha in 17 locations where cooperating SUCs are located. As to the amount of oil in the seeds, DOST-ITDI and the UPLB team analyzed seeds from local collections obtained from various parts of the country and found them to yield 28-36 percent oil (using solvent extraction). Initial findings of the UPLB team also indicated that some Jatropha collections have sterol and no free fatty acids, which has some positive contribution in processing efficiency and storage cost. Oil yields were affected by varietal characteristics, seed quality and the extraction method.

> ***"Poor farmers should be given opportunities to benefit from the biofuel revolution as growing this biofuel crops generates additional employment and income."***

UPLB further seeks to ensure that the promotion of biofuels will not sacrifice food security and general welfare of Filipinos and would not be detrimental to the environment. UPLB is one with the government in ensuring that food crop areas are maintained and protected for food security. We are therefore seeking to develop biofuel crops in the agroecosystems in which they can best perform without sacrificing the need for foods, feeds, and sound environment while addressing the needs of the marginalized farmers in the country.

Sweet sorghum, for example, should not necessarily compete with corn and sugarcane for production areas. Sweet sorghum is being considered in areas where rice, corn and sugar cane cannot be productive because of limited irrigation water. In rain fed areas, sweet sorghum fits well as a dry season crop after wet season rice crop.

In the same manner, Jatropha is mainly targeted for planting in marginal areas where food crops (including sweet sorghum) are not planted or cannot be planted. These areas include degraded grasslands; denuded uplands; lahar-affected areas; and even mine silted areas. Field trials on the use of mychorizza, organic fertilizers and other biofertilizers are being tested in marginal soils in Laguna, Rizal and Quezon. Field trials in lahar areas are established in Zambales in cooperation with the Central Luzon State University and the Ramon Magsaysay Tehnological University. Trial planting of Jatropha in mine tailing areas was established in Marinduque. Initial results from BIOTECH and feedback from farmers indicated good response of Jatropha to Mykovam inoculation.

UPLB believes that farmers should not be left behind in the development of the biofuel industry. If indeed the biofuel industry takes off, the involvement of farmers this early can help ensure equitability of benefits. Poor farmers should be given opportunities to benefit from the biofuel revolution as growing this biofuel crops generates additional employment and income. Integration of Jatropha with agroforestry and agricultural systems such as in coconut and hillyland farming are being studied.

The UPLB team is also working on village-level processing of Jatropha. A 1,000 liter per day coconut oil expeller has been modified and initial results are encouraging. The results showed 79.5 percent oil extraction efficiency using enzymatic processing and reduction in reaction time by as much as 30-60 minutes during the esterification process. The potential of using processing by-products for animal feeds, organic fertilizers and production of bioplastics are also being explored to add value to Jatropha.

Efforts are being done to start small by exploring the use of Jatropha to fuel stoves and other small-time village-level power generators. Efforts are being undertaken in Jomalig and Panukulan in the Polillo Group of Islands to plant Jatropha and provide fuel for the energy needs of the islands.

Some practical advise from our team. Considering the yet uncharted course of using Jatropha as a biofuel, and consequently its profitability as an economic crop, it may yet be unwise for farmers to immediately start big but they can start small and be part of the country's quest for alternative fuel sources without compromising food security in an attempt to attain energy sufficiency.

It is worthwhile to note that Jatropha is not a stranger among our farmers. It has been in the Philippines for quite long and local varieties are expected to be better adapted (including adaptation to pests and diseases) to Philippine conditions. Interested planters may use these varieties in their areas as long as they grow vigorously, bear fruit, have at least eight capsules per cluster, 2-3 seeds per capsule, bear at least three clusters per branch per fruiting season, and have at least 35 fruiting branches. Jatropha start to produce fruits as early as six months after sowing in case of plants from seedlings or four months if stem cuttings are used. Yield increases every year as there are more fruiting branches developed to peak in the fifth year.

Farmers can plant at least 10-100 plants in their fences or in their idle lots not necessarily investing a fortune or buying that PhP100/kg seeds. As farmers plant, they will learn and experience things. They can validate among others, the effects of some pruning techniques on the amount of fruits, the influence of water availability and fertilizer management on the performance of the crop and the management of pests and diseases as well.

Whatever campaigns and promotion we do, we trust that small holders are wise enough to test things on Jatropha first before they commit their whole farm resources to something new. It is projected that small farmers will have until 2009 to study how things are going without being left out when things do get better.

As to the big companies coming in, they have their own facility to determine the risk and could speculate (or research) on the gains. If they go big thinking that they can get big chunks of lands for their operations, they most likely would have to hurdle lots of difficulties unless adequate mechanisms are put in place to work with small farmers and provide a plowback mechanism for gains in processing.

The country is approaching an important crossroad as it joins the world in search for sustainable alternative fuels. At this crucial time, it would be well for all stakeholders to do their part to make sure we choose a path and carry on, rather than remain undecided on the crossroad.

We at UPLB have decided to carry on the tradition of contributing to nation building through a science-based approach on the matter of Jatropha and biofuels as with other conservation and development issues we constantly tackle. While the end may not be in sight, we know we are leading the pack on the research and development track and will be true to our mandate as we strive to deliver concrete results worth reckoning with.

September 19, 2007
University of the Philippines Los Banos
Los Banos, Laguna

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SURVIVING BRAIN CANCER & 2 TIMES STROKE AND WORST COMATOSE FOR 28 DAYS!

Mrs. Ligoria P. Sison age 60, married of 231 Banlik Cabuyao, Laguna, finally check-out alive at Boston C Herbs clinic Brgy. Maligaya, Tarlac City after a month of Boston-C Herbs Treatment. She had finally regained her conscious mind and could recognize familiar faces. Before she was treated at Boston-C clinic by Dra. Farrah-Arsenia C. Agustin, MD the owner of the clinic, Mrs. Sison was before a frequent patient of various hospitals in Laguna. She was first diagnosed with High blood pressure, sometimes in Feb. 2007. Nevertheless, dizziness and head pain keep coming back. Again, she was rushed to another hospital. A brain scan was done immediately. The finding was brain cancer with a 5cm x 5 cm x 7cm tumor. Due to monetary constrain, the family resorted to Herbal & Faith Healing, but to no avail.

A month later she suffered a severe stroke. Her left side body was paralyzed. She lost her voice and vision and need to be fed thru NGT and hooked to oxygen and respirator. Desperate for alternative cure, on July 7, 2007, the whole family drove to Tarlac City where a well known herbal scientist dwell and treat various illnesses, considered terminal by medical standard, Mrs. Sison was admitted right away.

Nevertheless, she suffered second stroke at the second confinement. This time the right side of the body was paralyzed too. She felt into comma. Thereafter the family advise to go home but faith in the healing values of katoni herbs prompted them to stay. After 26 days of comatose condition, Mrs. Sison suffered new brain attack a seizure. Her fever refused to simmer down for days, always at 40C. But amazingly she survived the attack. Come 28th days, a miracle happened. She opened up her eyes, moves her feet, hands, finger and body movement. She could also communicate thru signs to the delight of everyone in the hospitals, only to survived this serious condition said by the attending physician. A brain scanned was done after 30 days, the tumor size turned 1cm x 1cm x 2cm. The family decided to go home to just continue the treatment there in Laguna to scrimp on expenses. A week later, Mrs. Sison was no breathing freely without the aid

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Nora Ocampo, Stage 4 Breast, Liver, Ovary & Bone Cancer Survivor

My illness two years ago was breast cancer: Stage 3A when I was operated on. After two years, it spread to my liver, ovary and bones. I could not stand anymore. At St. Luke Hospital, they said that they have to remove my ovary, undergo RFA for my liver, and later on chemotherapy. I did not have my liver treated. The following day, I decided to just take cyeton S orally and by intravenously.

In six months, my liver was negative of cancer cells and my ovary was normal. Now, there is no more illness in my bones because of Boston C Herbal Products and intravenous treatment.

Raul Colungca Pancreatic and Liver Cancer Survivor

I was born and raise in Texas, USA and I am a retired military man. I was in the logistic field Saudi Arabia in January 2004. I went for an operation for gall stone, only to find out that I had cancer. I had raptured cancerous tumors that spread through my body. When they told me I had three weeks to live, I went to Duke University in the US and underwent chemotherapy to get well again. And they told me I was at forth stage of pancreatic cancer and that there was no cure.

I underwent chemotherapy for eight months and the end result is that I became immune to chemotherapy. I read an article about the Philippines and about some patients who had been here and took Boston C. They said that the results were great and they told me about the good works that they had been doing here. Mostly, it was on the positive side. I decided to take a chance and came here to the Philippines and sought treatment.

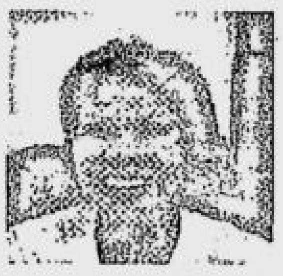
On the first round of Boston C intravenous treatment, it seems like the result was positive for the most part. Not a hundred percent but there was quite a bit of improvement. I'm very glad about that. At least there was an improvement that wasn't there before. My tumor supposedly, according to the test, wasn't there anymore but I still have to take another test. They call it CT scan to make doubly sure that the tumor is completely gone. I still get some metastases in the liver but it has been reduced abut 30% in a matter of thirteen days. I had been here in the Boston C Tarlac clinic for thirteen days and I followed the instructions they gave me. I drank the supplement they gave me and there was an improvement. Not a hundred percent but it shows vast improvement. I feel a little better and a litte stronger and lost a little weight but I understood that because my appetite wasn't very good. By now, I'm gaining a little weight and I plan to come back for another treatment and I'm hoping that it will cure me completely. That is my hope.

Rodolfo Andaya Chronic Renal Failure survivor

I am Rodolfo Andaya, from Barangay Kaniyogan, Pasig. Two years ago I was told I had kidney failure. My doctor said, "This will require long term treatment". I was then told of the many options that I can choose from like major operation, kidney transplant which made me depressed then. I told myself that I was never going to get well. I felt pain in my stomach on many different occasions. I couldn't sleep. My weight really went down. Even my blood pressure went down. I then underwent dialysis for seven sessions and even had blood transfusion. My expenses were piling up and I felt that I couldn't hold any longer. Because of my predicament, I prayed all the time and everyday to the Almighty above. Then a friend of mine visited me and advised me to take Boston C. I then started taking Boston C after each meal. I noticed thereafter that there were "black" materials whenever I defecated. Now everything is normal including my urination. I still take Boston C because I think it will prevent any problems from recurring.

Helen Napiza 4th Stage Lung Cancer

"Three years ago, I had a mass in my lungs that was about the size of a golf ball. My doctor advised me to have a biopsy done but I opted not to have that done because somebody told me about Boston C. I underwent IV therapy using Boston C for one week and then oral therapy for 6 months. Afterwards, I underwent CT Scan, X-ray to find out if the mass is still there. All tests revealed negative with the help of Boston C."



Antonia Dotdot Stage 4 Ovarian Cancer

I am from Hongkong; and I have been a cancer patient since the year 2000. They operated on my left ovary. They removed it along with my appendix. But I did not undergo chemotherapy, that's why it metastazed to my right ovary. So they removed it. They should have removed both ovaries during my first operation. Anyway, I was already 50 years old. I was scheduled to have chemotherapy session but even after that, my cancer level was still high and I had a tumor in my liver.

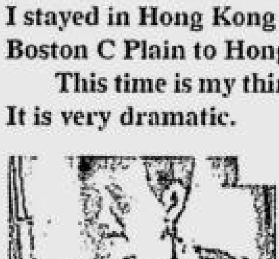
The doctor wanted me to undergo six (6) sessions but I refused to do the chemotherapy. After that, my family including my husband accepted that my life will be short lived. We prayed and attended mass every day asking for a miracle for almost three (3) months. We even attended El Shaddai.

Then one day, my husband's assistant told him about Boston C herbal theraphy. So I called Mr. Agustin. right away and I was admitted to the Boston C clinic in tarlac for two weeks. That was three (3) years ago, March 2003.

After the treatment, I went back to Hong Kong for another check up. My oncologist was surprised because my cancer level went down. Before Boston C, my cancer level was 77.6 after the fifteen (15) days intravenous treatment of Boston C, my cancer level went down to 34.8. the oncologist was surprised and asked me to bring him a bottle of Cyeton S.

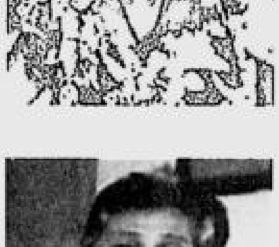
I stayed in Hong Kong for at least a year and then came back for my second Boston C treatment which was only for five (5) days because I felt all right. I brought a lot of Cyeton S, Ultimo and Boston C Plain to Hong Kong and Drank it religiously everyday.

This time is my third treatment in the cllinic after the three (3) years. Now, my cancer level is only 26. That is only 6 point higher than the normal level which is 20. I am really getting better. It is very dramatic.



Flordeliza Montejo Brain Cancer Survivor

A team from Boston C paid Mrs. Flordeliza Montejo, 58 years old, a visit in her home town in Orion, Bataan. Her daughter. Perlita Montejo, and caregiver, Julieta Garon reminisced how in 2003, Flordeliza was diagnosed to have brain cancer; and how she unfortunatelycould not be operated on. Due to this, the tumor grew and she went blind. She was very weak, had no appetite, was bedridden and almost paralyzed. She could not stand, let alone, walk. But somehow, her family found out about Boston C and brought her to the Tarlac clinic where Flordeliza was confined for ten days for an intravenous treatment to fast track her healing process. After this, she continued taking a prescribed dosage of Boston C herbal extracts orally for the next few months. Now, Flordeliza's brain tumor is completely gone. She has been cancer free for some years now, and it was very heart warming for the Boston C team to talk to her and to see her demonstrate a walk, and even mimic a dance. On her part, she must have been thrilled to see herself on the video monitor for the first time as the team played back her interview.

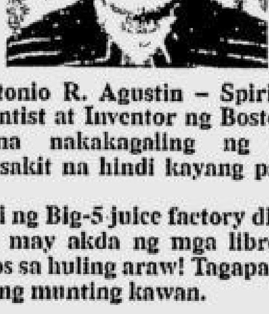


Topy Urbano, formerly insulin dependent diabetic

When Ultimo was introduced to me, I drank it but I still had my insulin injection, two times a day, in the morning and in the afternoon. After three months, I lessen my insulin intake. Then I consulted my doctor. He said my blood level is now normal.

One time I ate a lot of sweets. I worried and so I had an insulin injection. I immediately felt weak. I drank softdrink. I realized that there was a big change. I had to lessen or stop my insulin intake because I already have Ultimo.

After three months, I went to see my doctor but I was not taking insulin anymore. The doctor said I was normal. From that time on, I never had insulin. I just drank Ultimo for maintenance. My blood sugar level is normal for eight months now. I think Ultimo was able to rehabilitate my pancreas.



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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, September 30, 2007
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Amos 6:1, 4-7

Their wanton revelry shall be done away with.

Woe to those proud people who live, overconfident on the hill of Samaria!

Woe to you, men of renown, from the first among the nations, to whom the people of Israel come!

You lie on beds inlaid with ivory and sprawl on your couches; you eat lamb from the flock and veal from calves fattened in the stall.

You strum on your harps, and like David, try out new musical instruments.

You drink wine by the bowlful and anoint yourselves with the finest oils, but you do not grieve over the ruins of Joseph.

Therefore you will be the first to go into exile; and the feast of sprawlers will be over.

2nd Reading: 1 Timothy 6:11-16

Keep the commandments.

But you, man of God, shun all this. Strive to be holy and godly. Live in faith and love, with endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith and win everlasting life to which you were called when you made the good profession of faith in the presence of so many witnesses.

Now, in the presence of God who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus who gave the good testimony before Pontius Pilate, I command you to keep the commandment. Keep yourself pure and blameless until the glorious coming of Christ Jesus, our Lord, which God will bring about at the proper time, he, the magnificent sovereign, King of kings and Lord of lords. To him, alone immortal, who lives in unapproachable light and whom no one has ever seen or can see, to him be honor and power for ever and ever. Amen!

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Lazarus and the rich man.

Jesus said to the Pharisees, "Once there was a rich man who dressed in purple and fine linen and feasted every day. At his gate lay Lazarus, a poor man covered with sores, who longed to eat just the scraps falling from the rich man's table. Even dogs used to come and lick his sores. It happened that the poor man died and angels carried him to take his place with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. From hell where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham afar off, and with him Lazarus at rest.

"He called out: 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus with the tip of his finger dipped in water to cool my tongue, for I suffer so much in this fire.'

"Abraham replied: 'My son, remember that in your lifetime you were well-off while the lot of Lazarus was misfortune. Now he is in comfort and you are in agony. But that is not all. Between your place and ours a great chasm has been fixed, so that no one can cross over from here to you or from your side to us.'

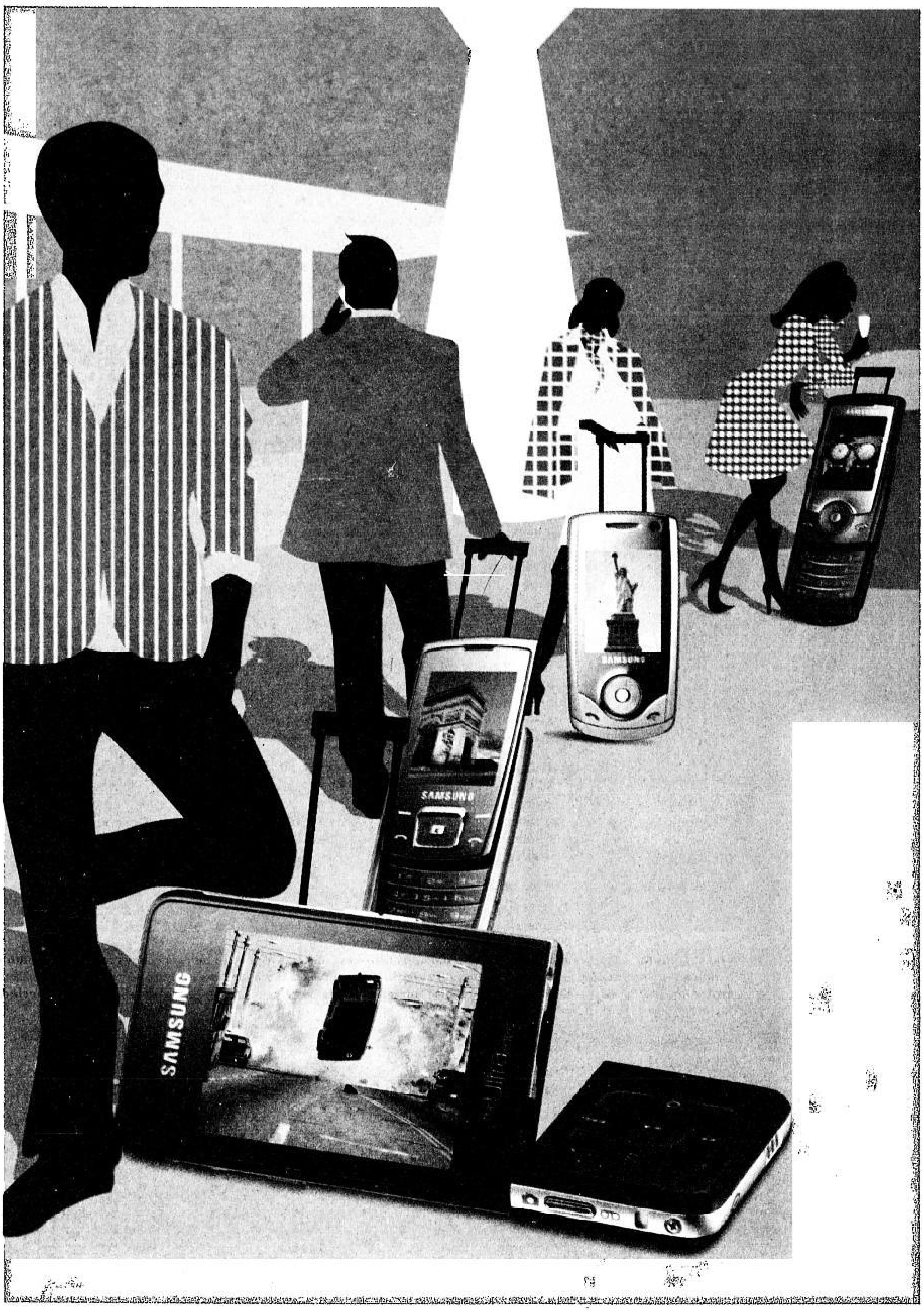
"The rich man implored once more: 'Then I beg you, Father Abraham, to send Lazarus to my father's house where my five brothers live. Let him warn them so that they may not end up in this place of torment.' Abraham replied: 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.' But the rich man said: 'No, Father Abraham. But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

"Abraham said: 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the grave.'"

Commentary

Again Amos goes after the rich, the complacent, those who feast, who live luxuriously, wasting money on clothes, shelter, feasts, pleasures, hedonism. They care nothing about the collapse of Joseph—the poor of the land. So they will be the first to go into exile and know hardship. Their insensitivity and wanton revelry will soon be over. What do we waste billions of dollars on, while the world starves, goes without water, lives in misery and violence? We are called the men and women of God. Do we look like what Timothy has been called to practice and witness to in his world? God gives life to all. Do we make sure that all have life by our faithfulness to God, our steadfastness in everlasting life that we share with others? This is our charge and the way we fulfill our profession of faith—by giving/sharing life with all.

We hear the story of Dives (rich) and Lazarus who is miserably poor. What separates them in their lives/religion is a gate/fence. Lazarus longs for scraps and has only dogs for company and Dives is unaware and cares not for even his own (Jewish countryman). They both die and Lazarus knows the fullness of life and Dives knows only torment. He still does not see Lazarus as a beloved child of God, only a servant to help him out. He cries out to send someone to tell his brothers. But Abraham (father of faith) tells him sternly that his brothers/like him had the prophets to listen to but they didn't. They won't listen to someone who comes back from the dead. Have we listened to the prophets? If we haven't then have we really ever listened to the prophet Jesus who has come back to life?



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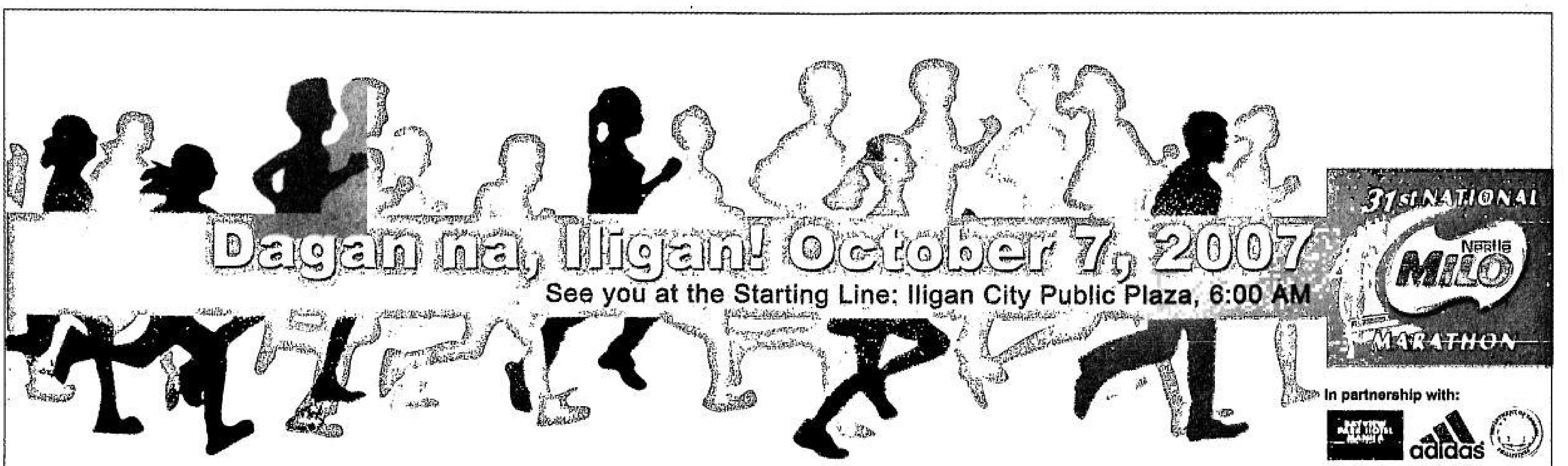
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‘Hanna’ weakens but more rains seen

By Jerome Aning

TROPICAL STORM "HANNA" WEAKENED SLIGHTLY AS IT MADE LANDFALL IN AURORA yesterday morning, but the weather bureau warned against intensified monsoon rains and flooding over the weekend.

In its 5 p.m. advisory, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services (Pagasa) said Hanna had accelerated westward and was crossing northern Luzon. As of 4 p.m., the weather disturbance was in the vicinity of Benguet with maximum sustained winds of 55 kilometers per hour near the center and moving west at 22 kph.

The weather bureau forecast Hanna would be 460 km west of Baguio City or 410 km west northwest of Iba, Zambales, this afternoon. Hanna is expected to be 700 km west southwest of Baguio or 650 km west northwest of Iba by tomorrow morning.

Signal No. 1 remained hoisted over Benguet, Abra, Kalinga, Ilocos Sur, Mt. Province, Ifugao, La Union, Nueva Viscaya, Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Zambales, Pampanga, Bataan and Bulacan. These areas' will experience winds of 30 to 60 kph.

Signal No. 1 in 14 other areas, including Metro Manila, has been lowered.

Pagasa said Hanna would continue to enhance the southwest monsoon which will bring rains over the western sections of Southern Luzon and the Visayas.

Those living in low-lying areas and near mountain slopes were advised to take all the necessary measures against possible flashfloods and landslides, it said.

Pagasa forecaster Nonoy About said a shallow low-pressure area has been spotted outside the Philippine area of responsibility that may develop into another storm.

Should the low-pressure area intensify into a cyclone, it would be given the name "Ineng."

Pagasa said there would be frequent to scattered rains up to Wednesday.

In Bicol, several passengers were stranded by Hanna.

As of 11 a.m. yesterday, 165 people were stranded at Pilar Port and 20 in Bulan, Sorsogon, due to the suspension of sea travel, the Region V Office of Civil Defense said.

At the Tabaco port in Albay, 177 persons were stranded, along with 15 trucks, two buses and two light vehicles.

In Laguna, the continuous downpour spawned by Hanna since Friday night dampened the fiesta celebration of five parishes in San Pedro, Rizal town and San Pablo City.

In Cebu City, a motorized passenger banca bound for Bohol experienced engine trouble when it encountered strong waves late Friday afternoon, the Coast Guard said.

All 29 persons aboard the vessel were rescued. *With reports from Jaymee T. Gamil and Romulo O. Ponte, Inquirer Southern Luzon and Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas*

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Erap sheds tears for ma

FAR FROM THE MAcho image he projects, convicted former President Joseph Estrada for a few minutes yesterday was the picture of a vulnerable son pained by the sight of a bedridden mother.

"Mama, mama, I'm here," said Estrada several times, trying to wake the 102-year-old Ejercito matriarch, Mary, at San Juan Medical Center, according to Ferdie Ramos, his media liaison officer.

When his imploring got no response, Ramos said Estrada momentarily took off his sunglasses and wiped away tears.

He was in his mother's room only a few minutes when his sister, Dr. Pilarica Ejercito, advised him to leave the room to avoid exposing their mother to infection.

In the afternoon, Estrada reentered his mother's room and saw her open her eyes. This time, when he said to her, "*Si* Erap *ito. Si* Erap," his mother reportedly responded through facial expressions.

"She opened her eyes and saw (Estrada). She recognized the president," Dr. Lorenzo Jocson, Ejercito's physician, told the INQUIRER. *Jeannette I. Andrade*

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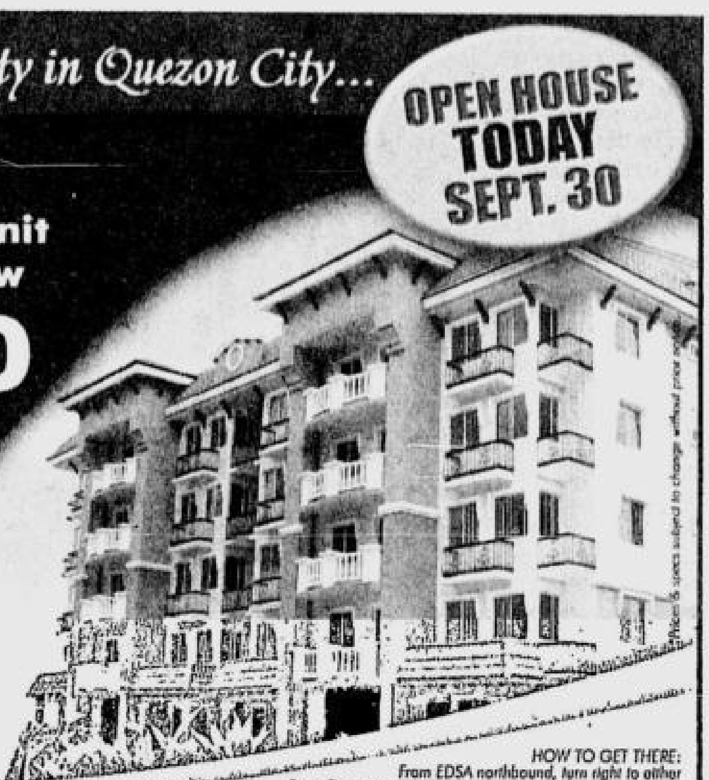

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A MOST URGENT APPEAL TO OUR SENATORS

House Bill No. 2417, which seeks to postpone the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections from October 29, 2007 to May 11, 2009, was approved on third and final reading by the House of Representatives nearly two weeks ago.

With utmost urgency, we appeal to our Senators to take a similar step—and approve a counterpart bill.

Postponement of the synchronized Barangay/SK polls, far from stifling grassroots democracy, will enhance grassroots participation in a meaningful way through reforms during the intervening period.

First, it will enable the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) to finally computerize voting and counting—the main safeguards against vote manipulation. The short breathing spell between last May's midterm and the scheduled October 29 Barangay/SK elections leaves us hardly enough time to adequately prepare for yet another nationwide political exercise.

Second, it will save a lot of money for the government, which has appropriated some P2 billion for the polls.

Third, it will save almost P400 million for the roughly 42,000 Barangays, each of which will share the cost of the elections, such as transportation allowance and honorarium for each of the Board of Election Tellers, on top of the incredible campaign expenses to the candidates.

Fourth, hopefully, the new date that may be set by the Senate and the House will lead to the holding of the synchronized Barangay/SK polls with the elections in 2008 of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), and to further savings by the government.

Fifth, we shall use the intervening period to initiate essential reforms in the Barangay system and rationalize the SK structure.

Sixth, hopefully, the postponed elections in 2008 will now be implemented by a new set of COMELEC officials, who will then be more prepared for undertaking COMELEC's mandate under the law to computerize the next elections.

We are racing against time.

To our senators we say, please give this **APPEAL** your most urgent and favorable consideration.

- **League of Municipalities**
- **The Majority and Minority Coalitions, House of Representatives**

RP needs more than 'amparo,' says HK group

By Jerome Aning

THE WRIT OF AMparo may not be enough to solve the problem of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances in the Philippines, a Hong Kong-based human rights group said Friday.

In a statement posted on its website (www.ahrchk.net), the Asian Human Rights Commission said the new Supreme Court rule must be complemented by tougher laws against abduction, torture and extrajudicial killings.

"Though it responds to practical areas, it is still necessary that further action must be taken in addition to this. The legislative bodies, House of Representatives and Senate, should also initiate their own actions promptly and without delay. They must enact laws which would ensure the protection of rights—laws against torture and enforced disappearances and laws to accord adequate legal remedies to victims," the group said.

AHRC said that although it was "a fact of life" that torture and enforced disappearances continuously took place all over the Philippines, there were no laws yet against these.

The group called on both houses of Congress to "unequivocally assert," through legislation, that the perpetrators of these acts should be punished and remedies accorded to victims.

On Sept. 25, the Supreme Court adopted the Rule on the Writ of Amparo. The new rule, which takes effect on Oct. 24, provides "remedies to any person whose right to life, liberty and security is violated and threatened."

The writ covers the unlawful acts or acts of omission of public officials and private individuals.

The rule reinforces the failure in the implementation of Republic Act No. 6981 or the Witness Protection, Security and Benefit Program and the lack of laws on protecting human rights.

The AHRC, however, said the mere issuance by the courts of temporary relief or remedies alone could not be sufficient to address "a systemic and widespread phenomena.

"Though relief is necessary, it does not adequately satisfy the remedies that the victims and their families would have desired or preferred to obtain. It is also necessary that remedies become a government policy and part of the domestic law rather than temporary relief. This should also be the utmost responsibility of the legislative body," the AHRC said.

The group added that persons, particularly social activists, rarely get protection from the authorities despite the gravity of the threats they face.

AHRC said the adoption of the rules was acknowledgment that remedies for persons facing serious threat, victims of extrajudicial killings, victims of enforced disappearances and their families, among others, had up to now been lacking within the system.

The new rule could provide remedies for victims with provisions for protection by a government agency or accredited group; would allow for inspection of places in search of victims of illegal arrest or disappearance, and would require the authorities to produce reports to determine the victims' plight.

AHRC noted that RA 6981 only provides protection to witnesses when their cases are filed or are pending in court, and that the law was ineffective and unresponsive in urgent situations.

General not so sick, says military

By Alcuin Papa

THE ARMED FORces of the Philippines yesterday denied that detained Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda was seriously ill.

Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, AFP spokesperson, told reporters a medical exam on Friday showed that Miranda, who is being held with other military officers and personnel on coup d'etat charges, did not require hospitalization.

Bacarro said Miranda, who suffers from vertigo. and had complained of dizziness, showed improvement since his last checkup on Sept. 18. His hearing in one ear had also improved, he said.

Enlarged tonsils

But the checkup showed Miranda's tonsils were enlarged and medication had been prescribed, Bacarro said.

"Patient is not admissible. He can be managed as an outpatient," Bacarro said in a text message to reporters.

Bacarro said blood tests showed Miranda, who is a diabetic, had a slightly elevated blood sugar level.

"But this is not alarming and is considered normal and controlled as patient is taking his medicine. This is contrary to allegations patient has hypoglycemia. There are no life threatening findings," he said.

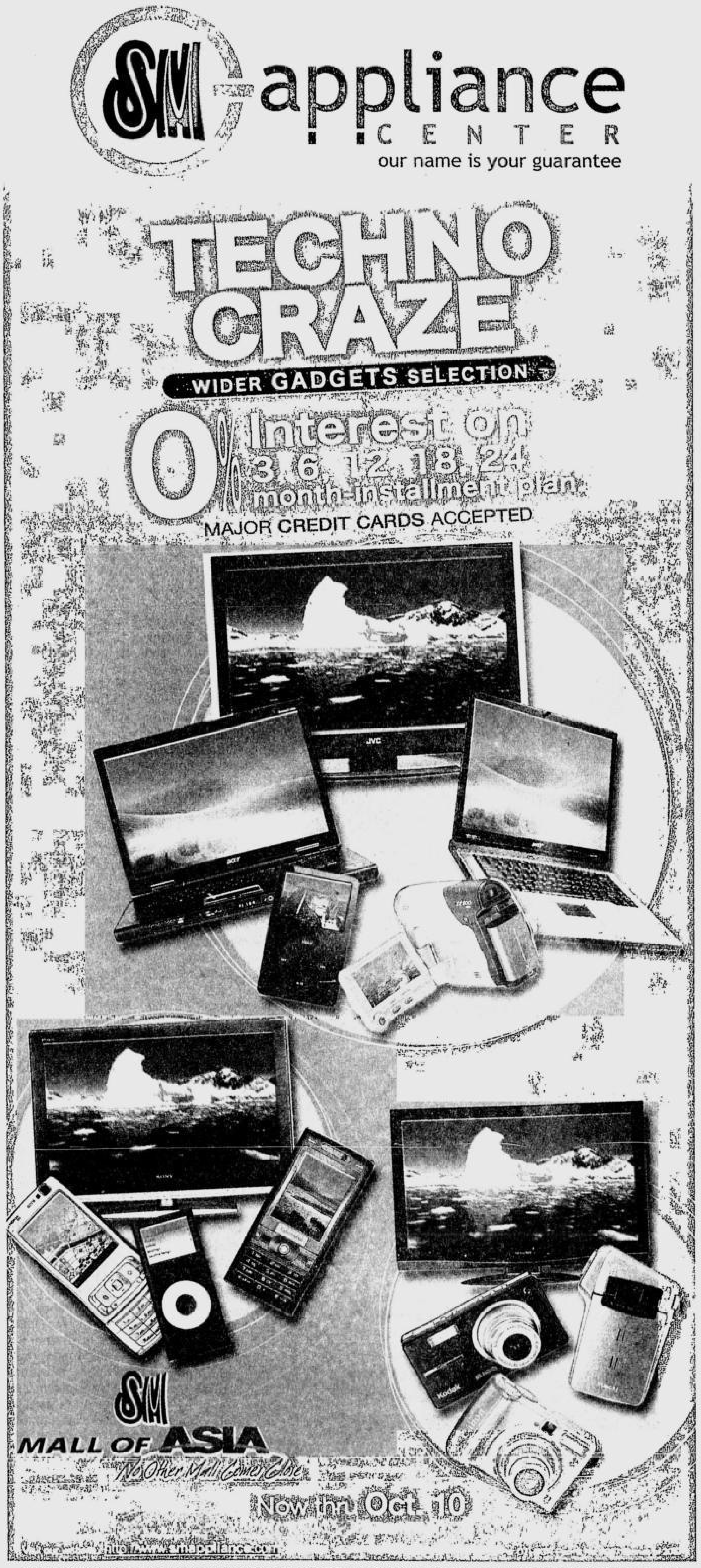
Miranda's coaccused, Army Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, had criticized the AFP leadership for "playing God" when it supposedly would not allow Miranda to seek treatment for his ailments.

Collapsed

Lim said Miranda had been ill for two weeks and had been having trouble with his blood sugar and cholesterol counts.

He said Miranda collapsed in the bathroom of his cell last week and nearly hit his head on the floor.

Lim said the detainees informed officials of the 2nd Infantry Division hospital in Tanay, Rizal—where the two generals and their coaccused are being held at Camp Capinpin—of Miranda's request that he be brought to the hospital, but the request was reportedly turned down because he was a "security risk."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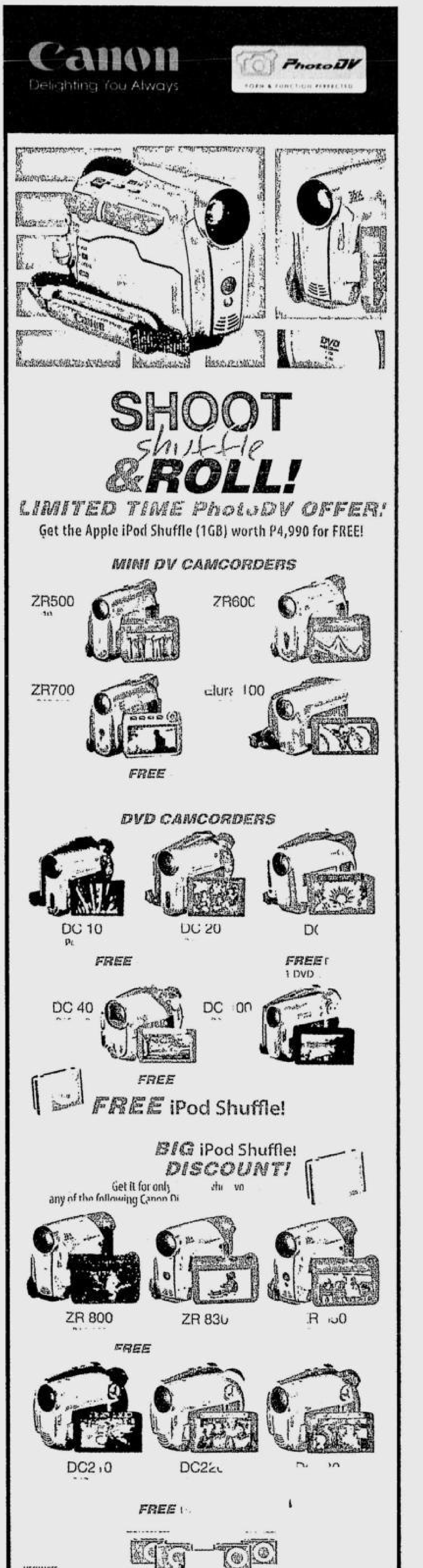

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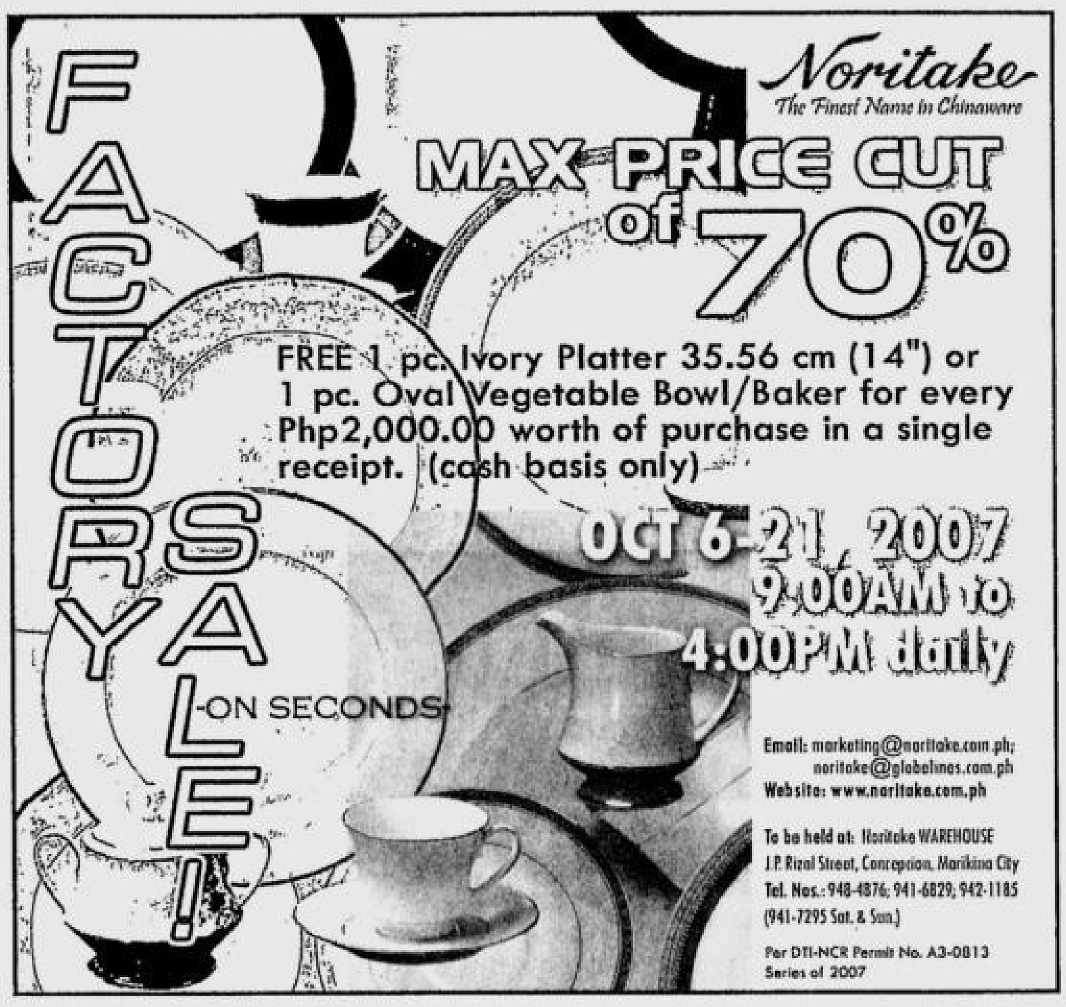

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Series of 2007

Faithful hail Lorenzo Ruiz ...

From page A1

workers. Martyred in Japan, he is seen as an empathetic figure by many overseas Filipino workers who experience the same loneliness and alienation working and making sacrifices in foreign lands.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales said Lorenzo Ruiz also represents the Christianity in the hearts of Filipinos in the world.

"*Kahit saan nandoon ang mga Pilipino, ang katapatan sa Diyos ay dala-dala ng Pinoy* (Wherever the Filipino may go, he carries his faith in God)," Rosales said.

Every Monday, the faithful at the old Binondo Church in Manila pray a novena to Lorenzo Ruiz as part of the church's devotion to its very own parishioner-turned-martyr.

Feast day

By praying the novena, they ask God to give them strength to make great sacrifices, just as Christ delivered himself in sacrifice, and just as the Filipino saint willingly did, despite threats of torture in Nagasaki, Japan in 1637.

Twenty years after his canonization on Oct. 18, 1987, Lorenzo Ruiz is venerated not only by Filipinos in the Philippines but also by Filipino communities and pilgrims elsewhere in the world.

Last week, Rosales said he presided over Holy Mass in Seoul, Korea, to commemorate the feast day of the Filipino martyr. Some 5,000 Filipinos attended the event.

On Sept. 23, the Filipino community in New York also held high Mass at the St. Patrick's Cathedral, presided by Antipolo Bishop Gabriel Reyes, to observe the feast day of Lorenzo Ruiz.

Last year, the same high mass in New York was presided by Rosales and was attended by an overflow crowd of 4,000.

A church in lower Manhattan has been named after the Filipino saint. The Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz, which is located on Broome Street in New York, is not yet a parish church but it is attached to the Philippine Pastoral Center of the Filipino Apostolate of the Archdiocese of New York.

Fr. Erno Diaz, the chapel's director, told the INQUIRER by e-mail that the church is located near Chinatown, owing to the saint's Chinese origins.

In Manila, the shrine of San Lorenzo Ruiz is located in the heart of Binondo. The 400-year-old church, which used to be the Parish of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary is now called the Minor Basilica of Saint Lorenzo Ruiz, primarily because the Filipino saint was a parishioner here.

"We consider it a gift that he was from here. Incidentally, he was the reason for the raising of the church to a minor basilica under his name," said Leonida Aranda, lay president of the Basilica's Parish Pastoral Council.

The area fronting the Binondo Church, which used to be the Plaza Calderon de la Barca was also renamed Plaza San Lorenzo where the statue of the martyr now stands.

NOTICE

This is to give notice that in Civil Case No. Q-07-60669 entitled "FLIK Industries, Inc., represented by its General Manager Erwin Bulatao, Plaintiff, versus First-AVPR Ventures, Inc., Aurea Rodriguez, Salvador Peñaredonda, Sergio Abcejo, Carter Gasiong, Ricardo Martinez, Jr. and Jason Galinato, Defendants," Branch 218 of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court issued a Temporary Restraining Order ("TRO") against Aurea Rodriguez, Salvador Peñaredonda, Sergio Abcejo, Carter Gasiong, Ricardo Martinez, Jr. and Jason Galinato. Said TRO enjoined these Dependants "or any person acting on their behalf to cease and desist from engaging in any activity which directly/indirectly competes with FLIK Industries, Inc."

ONGKIKO KALAW MANHIT & ACORDA LAW OFFICES
45 Cacho-Gonzales Bldg.,
101 Aguirre St.,
Legazpi Village, Makati City 102

(PDI – September 30, 2007)

Senators on NBN-ZTE ...

From page A1

vented corruption for all human civilization."

Thanks to ANC which covered the event live and practically uninterrupted, the senators were given plenty of airtime to perform for the cameras and ensure that those with presidential aspirations would somehow get noticed by the electorate. That's probably why many of them kept going back to the bribery issue, never mind if their questions had already been answered, as they milked what they perceived to be a "hot" and "sexy" issue for all it was worth in audience recall.

Cool medium

Santiago, who probably has already shelved her presidential ambitions, got noticed but for the wrong reasons. Her emotional outburst did not register well in an intimate medium like television which prefers cool, calm and collected performances.

While she may have echoed a growing sentiment among viewers when she made the point that the inquiry was a mere "squabble for kickbacks, *aksaya sa panahon ng senado*(a waste of the Senate's time)," her grating voice, sour face and aggressive demeanor made viewers uncomfortable, especially when she accused the Chinese of inventing corruption. When she theatrically walked out of the room, I doubt if anyone in the viewing audience sympathized with her.

Sen. Francis Escudero was not as abrasive as Santiago but his machine-gun style of interrogation did not register well on screen. Someone who watched the hearings observed that he sounded like "Ninoy Aquino, but without the charm." Escudero rattled his observations at such a fast clip viewers were unable to catch much of what he said. His inquisitorial tone and serious demeanor were probably meant to intimidate the witnesses. Was he expecting Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos to break down and confess his sins?

While Sen. Aquilino Pimentel scored some points with his direct questions about the ZTE Corp. contract, viewers will remember him for his pettiness when he suddenly asked Abalos: "Do you know Evelyn Silagon?" The Comelec chair was obviously expecting the question because he replied that he had received text messages alleging that the woman was his mistress with whom he has a child. When Abalos replied that he had not fathered a son by the woman, Pimentel pursued his line of questioning by asking, "Did you father a daughter?"

Not relevant issue

How this information was relevant to the issue at hand was something that Pimentel could not explain. But it was obvious from his questioning that he was still smarting from the Comelec's proclamation of Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri as the 12th placer in the last senatorial elections, instead of his son Koko.

In contrast, the gray-haired Sen. Joker Arroyo appeared more statesmanlike, saying that he would not question Abalos because he was biased against him. He added that the reason he did not attend the proclamation of the winning senators earlier this year was because he did not want Abalos to raise his hand.

Arroyo, who formerly chaired the blue ribbon committee, then reminded his colleagues that the NBN hearings were taking too much of the Senate's time when it had many other bills to tackle, as if to tell the current blue ribbon committee chair, the very junior Alan Peter Cayetano, that during his time as chair, things moved much faster.

For his part, Cayetano projected fairness as he steered the hearing. Always cool and even-tempered, he never berated any witness nor did he react violently when Gordon sarcastically commented that he was still a neophyte in the chamber.

Sensible questions

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada showed that even a movie actor can ask sensible questions. He interrogated Abalos on his frequent travels abroad in a sober manner and even when the Comelec chair seemed to be evading the issue, he refrained from using his usual high-handed and sarcastic manner, and calmly persisted in reading the record of Abalos' trips that he got from the Bureau of Immigration.

Best performances

The other lady senators should learn from Sen. Loren Legarda whose probing questions were able to bring out the fact that Neri had discussed the bribery attempt with the President. And when Neri invoked executive privilege when he was asked about his actual conversation with the President, Legarda did not pursue the case but she expressed her objection to Neri's stance with dignity.

If there is an award for best performance by a senator, it should go to two senators, Mar Roxas and Francis Pangilinan.

Instead of pursuing the popular bribery angle, Roxas questioned the economic feasibility of the project and asked whether there might be a cheaper alternative. The former trade and industry secretary managed to simplify the economic issues for the layman and he did so in an engaging manner. Even when he disagreed with the resource persons, he managed to remain cool, exactly what is demanded by the television medium.

Pangilinan projected a likable but authoritative persona when he brought out the inconsistencies in the witnesses' statements and raised the important issue that Abalos' claim that his presence at meetings where Joey de Venecia was around was merely coincidental.

Whether or not viewers stayed on through the night to watch the hearings, I can only surmise that after the "Sec, *may 200 ka dito*" testimony and the repetitious questions were done, they must have switched channels, especially when the hearings were extended into the schedule of "Zaido" and "Lastikman" on ABS-CBN and GMA 7.

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ANDAYA: Entered senators-only session

ARROYO: No, I did not.

NERI: Ill due to fear

Neri was ready...

From page A1

"I think he tried to help" was how a source explained Arroyo's purported move.

On the phone last night, Arroyo denied that he had intervened.

"I cannot talk [about it] because we have an agreement that nothing discussed in the executive session will come out. But to intervene for Neri, no [I did not]," he said.

Asked if he had tried to prevent Neri from talking, Arroyo said: "That's terrible backbiting."

Arroyo ran under the administration ticket in the 2001 and 2007 elections. In the previous Senate he chaired the blue ribbon committee, which was accused by opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson of sitting on his exposé about the secret "Jose Pidal" accounts of the President's husband.

Senators' argument

After Arroyo's motion, Budget Secretary Rolando "Nonoy" Andaya Jr. entered the members-only Senators' Lounge, according to the INQUIRER sources.

Andaya, who succeeded Neri in the budget department, came in supposedly to act as the latter's lawyer.

A source said the senators had an argument about the presence of Andaya, who, some insisted, should not be acting as Neri's lawyer because he was also a member of the Cabinet.

"It's hard to predict what he (Neri) was going to say, but he was about to talk. I think it's the presence of Nonoy that stopped him," one source said.

Neri could not be reached for comment. Calls and text messages to his phone went unanswered.

On Wednesday, at the third hearing of three Senate committees looking into the National Broadband Network (NBN) project, Neri testified that Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos had offered him P200 million in exchange for approving the project. Abalos vehemently denied this at the same hearing.

In his testimony, Neri said he reported Abalos' bribe attempt to the President, who told him not to accept it.

But when the senators asked him one after the other what the President had instructed him to do about the project afterward, Neri invoked executive privilege.

The senators decided to invite him to an executive session.

Inside the Senators' Lounge, Neri began to experience chills, and by one observer's account, it might have been partly because he was afraid.

'He sat there'

The sources could not explain how Andaya got into the picture, but he was seen arriving at the Senate a few hours before the senators decided to take Neri to the executive session.

"Basta dumating na lang, umupo doon (He just arrived and sat there)," a source said.

The sources said Andaya told the senators not to press Neri to talk because the latter was sick.

"Then *kinalabit na niya si* Neri," a source said.

The INQUIRER phoned Andaya six times yesterday, but he did not respond. Andaya, a fellow Bicolano, was Arroyo's protégé in the House of Representatives.

But many senators also agreed that Neri should have been sent home because he was obviously sick, another source said.

The executive session was over in less than 30 minutes.

"There was no bombshell," a source said, adding that Neri seemed to be wanting to tell the truth but "needs a little more prodding before he talks."

The source expressed the belief that Neri could eventually be persuaded to spill the beans.

Asked if Neri knew something that was damaging to the President, the source said: "Why would he invoke executive privilege if it's not damaging to the President?"

'Deathly afraid'

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. confirmed to the INQUIRER that Neri said nothing during the executive session.

Pimentel said that was all he was going to say because he was bound by the rule prohibiting senators from disclosing any details about their executive sessions.

"I cannot describe what else happened [inside] but it was obvious to me that Neri was sick. We allowed him to go because he was really sick," Pimentel said, adding:

"I think he was sick partly due to fear. It was obvious he was deathly afraid of what he was going to say; that's why he was chilling."

Pimentel said he did not hear Neri say that what he knew could lead to another people power revolt.

"This has nothing to do with our executive session, but just analyzing what happened during the entire hearing, it seems to me that he is deathly scared of saying something that might provide the smoking gun on the involvement of the President or some other people [in the ZTE deal]. But that is just my speculation," Pimentel said.

Asked if he thought Neri would eventually talk, Pimentel said: "I think so. I have faith that he will talk.

"He is now an object of pity and scorn. He can resign, but I think he is more worried about his physical safety."

Neri's dilemma

Another source said Neri had no qualms about testifying on Abalos' supposed bribe attempt.

"But his dilemma is whether he would talk about how he was pressured [by the President] to approve the contract," the source said.

Yet another source said Neri was summoned to Malacañang in the wee hours of April 20 to endorse the ZTE deal because the President was to leave for China on the following day to witness the signing of the contract.

On April 21, Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza and ZTE president Yu Yong signed the deal in China with the President as witness.

A source said Neri had told a friend that "what he will say will possibly cause the President's downfall."

The source said Neri, a hardcore technocrat, wanted reforms to result from his revelations: "He said that even if the NBN [deal] would be canceled, there are still many other projects [that can be the source of kickbacks]."

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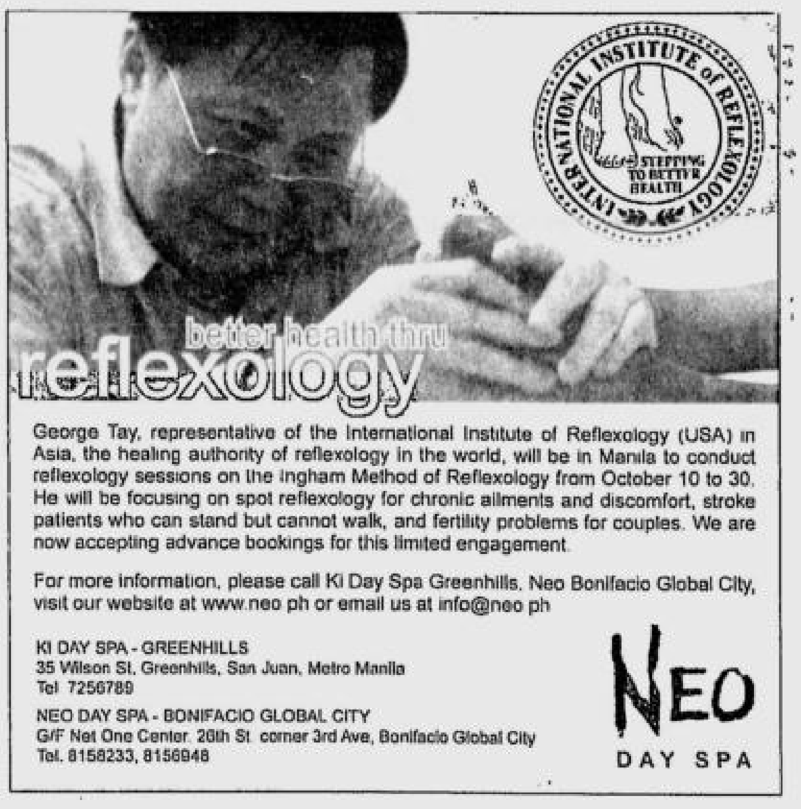

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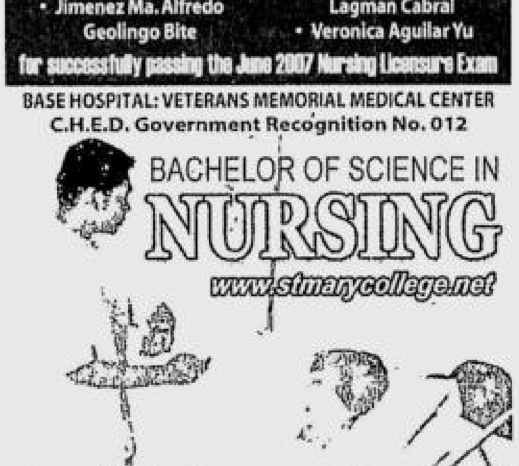

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Sale Lot No. 26-07 S.S.I. No. 2007-16 Hidemitsu Trading Corp. 1st Advertisement Floor Price: Php 5,005,887.52	One (1) unused/brand new CADILLAC ESCAPADE Utility Vehicle 2007, 1GYFK63807R177270 "AS IS WHERE IS" "Proceeds to be held in trust" Location: NSD Compound
Sale Lot No. 01-05 Consignee: DAEYONG TRADING Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05 7th Advertisement Floor Price: Php 27,191.30	One (1) Unit Used Hyundai Grandeur 1997 Model Color: Black Chassis No. KMHNF21FPKU015611 "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: NSD
Sale Lot No. 08-05 Consignee: DAEYONG TRADING Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05 7th Advertisement Floor Price: Php 27,191.30	One (1) Unit Used Hyundai Grandeur 1990 Model Color: Grey Chassis No. KMHNF21FPJU006548 "AS IS WHERE IS" Location:, NSD
Sale Lot No. 14-05 Consignee: Bayshore Gen. Mdse. Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-03 5th Advertisement Floor Price: Php 58,908.58	One (1) Unit Used Nissan Caravan RHD 1989 Model Color: White Chassis No. VRMGE24-013579 "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD
Sale Lot No. 15-05 Consignee: Bayshore Gen. Mdse. Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-03 5th Advertisement Floor Price: Php 74,682.85	One (1) Unit Used Mitsubishi Delica RHD 1991 Model Color: Light Blue Chassis No. P35W-0112287 "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD
Sale Lot No. 19-05 Consignee: Bayshore Gen. Mdse. Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-03 5th Advertisement Floor Price: Php 101,497.22	One (1) Unit Used Toyota Lucida RHD 1992 Model Color: Silver Chassis No CXR21-0002840 "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD
Sale Lot No. 35-05 Consignee: FG 628 Trading Co. Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-02 5th Advertisement Floor Price: Php 82,717.12	One (1) Unit Used Mitsubishi Pajero RHD 1989 Model Color: Dark Grey Chassis No L1400-302103B "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD
Sale Lot No. 36-05 Consignee: FG 628 Trading Co. Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-02 5th Advertisement Floor Price: Php 76,570.98	One (1) Unit Used Nissan Serena RHD 1993 Model Color: Grey Chassis No KVC23-022016 "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD
Sale Lot No. 41-05 Consignee: FG 628 Trading Co. Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-02 5th Advertisement Floor Price: Php 73,666.59	One (1) Unit Used Toyota Lite Ace RHD 1992 Model Color: Black Gray Chassis No CR21-0171503 "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD
Sale Lot No. 42-05 Consignee: FG 628 Trading Co. Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-02 5th Advertisement Floor Price: Php 66,512.06	One (1) Unit Used Mitsubishi Delica RHD 1991 Model Color: Green Chassis No P35W-0206502 "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD
Sale Lot No. 43-05 Consignee: FG 628 Trading Co. Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-02 5th Advertisement Floor Price: Php 81,100.80	One (1) Unit Used Toyota Lite Ace RHD 1992 Model Color: Dark Gray Chassis No CR21-0180085 "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD
Sale Lot No. 45-05 Consignee: FG 628 Trading Co. Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-02 5th Advertisement Floor Price: Php 70,784.93	One (1) Unit Used Mitsubishi Delica RHD 1992 Model Color: Green Chassis No P25W-0817275 "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD
Sale Lot No. 47-05 Consignee: Bayshore Gen. Mdse. Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05 3rd Advertisement Floor Price: Php 88,243.20	One (1) Unit Used Mits. Delica RHD 1992 Model Color: Blue and White Chassis No. P25W-0305442B "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD
Sale Lot No. 48-05 Consignee: Bayshore Gen. Mdse. Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05 3rd Advertisement Floor Price: Php 116,089.60	One (1) Unit Used Nissan Terrano RHD 1992 Model Color: Black Chassis No. WBYD21-076762 "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD
Sale Lot No. 52-05 Consignee: Daeyong Trading Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05 3rd Advertisement Floor Price: Php 54,240.64	One (1) Unit Used Audi 80 1.9E 1988 Model Color: Silver Chassis No. WAUZZZ89UA347219 "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD
Sale Lot No. 58-05 Consignee: PCS Cargo Movers D.A dated 17 October 2005 3rd Advertisement Floor Price: Php 13,774,120.32	30x20 container Ceramic Tiles Various sizes, designs and colors "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: NSD Compound
Sale Lot No. 57-05 Consignee: PCS Cargo Movers D.A dated 17 October 2005 3rd Advertisement Floor Price: Php 4,591,373.57	10x20 container Ceramic Tiles Various sizes, designs and colors "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: NSD Compound
Sale Lot No. 01-07 7th Advertisement Consignee: GCC Logistics Floor Price: Php 5,311,850.24	462 ctns Beanware Plastic Bowls 200 pcs/ctn 312 ctns Plastic Casserole Covers 84 pcs/ctn 229 ctns Plastic Cups 96 pcs/ctn 20 ctns Plastic Glasses 240 pcs/ctn Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD Compound
Sale Lot No. 02-07 1st Advertisement Consignee: Human Freight Logistics SSI# 2003-31 Floor Price: Php 36,000.00	One (1) Lot Used Television and VHS Machines (various sizes) Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD Compound
Sale Lot No. 03-07 Consignee: Raiden 3rd Advertisement Floor Price: Php 98,082.56	One (1) lot Video Monitors (29" and 21") 30 units "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: NSD Compound
Sale Lot No. 10-07 3rd Advertisement Consignee: New Wave Transport Decree of Abandonment dated 07 Jan 2005 Floor Price: Php 228,193.08	One (1) Unit Used Coronado Speed Boat "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: NSD Compound
Sale Lot No. 11-07 3rd Advertisement Consignee: New Wave Transport Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan 2005 Floor Price: Php 339,981.92	One (1) Unit Used Blue Larson Hampton Speed Boat "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: NSD Compound
Sale Lot No. 12-07 3rd Advertisement Consignee: New Wave Transport Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan 2005 Floor Price: Php 254,624.64	One (1) Unit Used Duck Hams Speed Boat "AS IS WHERE IS" Location: NSD Compound
Sale Lot No. 27-07 Consignee: Diosdado Tayag y Carlos S.S.I. No. 2007-18 1st Indorsement Floor Price: Php 180,400.00	Fifty (50) boxes ELYSEE Sparkling Wine (6 x 75cL) Location: Bldg. 307, Canal Road
Sale Lot No. 28-07 Consignee: Diosdado Tayag y Carlos S.S.I. No. 2007-18 1st Indorsement Floor Price: Php 280,000.00	Ten (10) boxes JOSE CUERVO Margarita Mix (12 x 1L) Location : Bldg. 307, Canal Road
Sale Lot No. 29-07 1st Indorsement Consignee: Cesar Cepil Christopher Indig Loval Magdadaro Conrado Alinsug, Jr. S.S.I. No. 2005-72/74/75/76 Floor Price: Php 838,000.00	78 Bottles JUVE Blemish Control and 70 Bottles JUVE Miracle Cream Location: Bldg. 307, Canal Road
Sale Lot No. 30-07 1st Indorsement Consignee: Benjamin Daleyola S.S.I. No. 2006-73 Floor Price: Php 84,000.00	11 Pcs. Necktie Location: Bldg. 307, Canal Road
Sale Lot No. 31-07 1st Indorsement Floor Price: Php 15.00/Kilo	One (1) lot SCRAP Motor Vehicles (Approximately 28,800 kgs) Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD

Atty. MARIETTA D. ZAMORANOS
District Collector

GMA: Use woman power ...

From page A1

The Philippines joined the international condemnation of the Burmese junta's violent crackdown on a mass uprising led by Buddhist monks, which grew from small protests against shock fuel price increases in August.

The latest crackdown resulted in the death of nine people and the wounding of several others. Diplomatic sources inside Burma feared the death toll could be higher.

In unusually blunt language for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), the group's foreign ministers, minus that of Burma, the other day expressed their revulsion over the crackdown and demanded that the Burmese government "immediately desist from the use of violence against demonstrators."

Ms Arroyo was among 40 women leaders, including women heads of state and government from across the globe, who attended the WLWG, which Rice organized in 2005. The group meets to discuss current challenges facing women empowerment.

The President attended the women's meeting on the margin of the UN General Assembly summit which she addressed.

According to Bunye, the President considered it an honor to take part in the WLWG "meeting convened by the most powerful woman in the world," referring to Rice.

In her message to the forum, Ms Arroyo said there were many women in the Philippines who like her were leaders in their field.

She said the government was broadening health care and intensifying microfinance to increase Filipino women's opportunities for self-development.

Back home, the Senate called on the UN Security Council, the European Union and Asean to intervene and restore democracy in Burma.

The Philippines has taken a strong position against the Burmese junta, breaking away from the Asean position in 2005, according to Ms Arroyo.

The President said her latest statement demanding the release of Suu Kyi was "the most candid statement coming from us."

Burma had to give up its turn at Asean's chairmanship last year after a number of Asean's dialogue partners, which include the US and EU, said they would not attend any regional meetings there. The Philippines had to step in and take the chairmanship. *With a report from Dona Pazzibugan*

Math can prevent violence ...

From page A1

A few years back, I tried using math to model conflict, specifically how game theory (popularized by Nobel laureate John Nash, portrayed in the movie "A Beautiful Mind") could shed light on the Spratly Islands dispute and the 1986 Edsa Revolution.

However, there were too many real-life factors that my simple model could not control, so I stopped that line of research.

Complex systems

But math, it turns out, can prevent violence.

Not game theory this time, but a new field called the science of complex systems, whose principles have long been used to study how chemicals, like oil and water, or solid, liquid and gas, behave in the laboratory, and the boundaries between them. Of course, humans are certainly more complex than molecules. But according to a landmark report that appeared in the prestigious journal Science (Sept. 14, 2007), math can help make sense of how different groups interact.

The lead author of the report is a Filipino—May T. Lim of the University of the Philippines' National Institute of Physics in Diliman, Quezon City.

"I have always been interested in science, as well as music, literature and the arts, although between science and recess, I would have picked recess any day," Lim says.

What motivated her to pursue physics?

"MacGyver!" she says—certainly prescient, because, as any 1980s TV buff knows, MacGyver does use his scientific skills to combat violence.

The study on math and violence started three years ago, in the latter half of 2004, shortly after Lim went to the New England Complex Systems Institute (Necsi) in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

"My personal involvement started about a year later," she recalls. "I had been working on using modeling to describe other systems during my doctorate work at UP before that. But my mentor and co-author, Necsi president Yaneer Bar-Yam, started research on violence seven years ago in his book 'Making Things Work.'"

Boundaries

More than 100 million people have died in ethnic violence in the last century. Researchers try to pinpoint probable roots, such as resource competition, territorial squabbles, economic competition.

But Lim and Bar-Yam, together with Richard Metzler, now focus on something that has been neglected so far—the boundaries between different groups.

"We performed statistical analyses comparing the predicted to the reported violence, evaluating the ability of the model to determine both where violence occurs and where violence does not occur," the scientists report.

Different ethnic, cultural or social groups interact in various ways, depending on how much they are mixed. Social and political factors can trigger violence, but it is more likely to occur with specific types of boundaries.

What boundaries? For one, violence tends to occur when boundaries between different groups are not clear.

"When a group is large enough to impose its cultural standards publicly, but not large enough to prevent them from being broken, violence normally occurs," Lim says.

Think of islands or peninsulas composed of one cultural group, surrounded by a different one. These areas may most likely become hotspots of violence because the boundaries are not well-defined.

By studying census figures, Lim and her group discovered that unclear boundaries were linked to violence during the Bosnian wars in the former Yugoslavia and recent conflicts in India.

For their study on India, the scientists created a map based on the 2001 census showing the relative population sizes of different groups like Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains.

By looking at the boundaries between the groups, they predicted—with an astonishing 90-percent accuracy—locations of extreme violence, especially in Kashmir, Punjab and other areas in Northwest India.

The scientists also predicted accurately that other areas would have lesser violence, such as Jharkhand.

Good fences

To prevent violence, policymakers need to identify areas at risk and make boundaries clearer. ("Good fences make good neighbors," said the poet Robert Frost.)

True, groups that are separated by clear boundaries can still experience some antagonism because of other reasons. But boundaries prevent mixing, which minimizes the chance of violence.

The scientists cite Ireland as an example. Because of historical and religious differences, we should expect unstoppable conflict there. But because of clear boundaries that hinder much mixing, violence has generally been prevented in the past years.

Does this mean that we should erect fences among us, the higher the better?

Not exactly, and certainly not all the time, say the scientists: "Caution is warranted to ensure that the goal of preventing violence does not become a justification for it. Even a peaceful process of separation is likely to be objectionable."

They urge us to think about negative effects of separation, such as displacement of populations. But there is another way.

Thorough mix

A friend told me once that he almost came to blows with a neighbor over the task of clearing a giant tree felled by a typhoon:

"The tree lay practically between our gardens. After much argument, we finally came to our senses and cooperated. He cleared the tree, and I paid him for it."

This brings us to the second result of Lim's study—one I find more congenial than erecting high fences. Violence can be prevented by thoroughly mixing different groups so that islands and peninsulas do not even form.

The study confirms what my Singaporean colleague told me. In Singapore, more than 80 percent of the population live in public housing, where rules specify the percentage of ethnic groups occupying housing blocks.

National laws force cultural mixing, and various peoples literally have no choice but to live and grow up side by side. There are social tensions at times, but violence is generally absent.

Why is this so? In places where people are highly mixed, no group becomes big enough to develop a strong identity, or to impose its culture on others.

Groups "are neither imposed upon nor impose upon other groups, and are not perceived as a threat to the cultural values or social and political self-determination of others," the scientists say.

The RP case

Lim and her group believe that their work can be applied to deal with violence in Iraq and Africa. The model has yet to be applied to the Philippines.

"That would be an interesting project," Lim muses.

She adds: "The key is to understand how the boundary structure of the population and the geography interact. When violence is sporadic, like what happens in our country, the conditions are likely to be just barely meeting those that promote violence.

"Ethnic violence is a very serious problem. But now we have the ability to help prevent it using a scientific approach."

Lim's research has already proven my "*suki*" right. As long as different groups mix closely together, as they do in the Greenhills *tiangge*, there is hope for us.

(The author is a professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She may be reached at blessbook@yahoo.com.)

Art therapy healing for AFP's wounded warriors

From page A1

President's Avenue in Parañaque City," said Angelina Jones, Ramos' eldest daughter.

Jones, who was at the AFPMC last Sunday, narrated that when Chula was well enough, the Ramos family decided to take her to the United States for behavioral therapy.

Operation Love Joy

It was at a small medical center in Georgia that Chula relearned how to swallow, talk and move, Jones said. Part of her therapy was going to a facility called Carpenter's House in Atlanta.

"Every Saturday, Chula participated in an activity called Operation Love Joy at Carpenter's, where she painted alongside homeless people and recovering drug addicts," Jones recalled. "It was a very good therapeutic activity for her."

Chula's positive experience inspired Jones to bring the activity to the Philippines. In February, she introduced herself to John Feight, prime mover of the Foundation for Hospital Art.

"Their mission is to make every single hospital in the world a beautiful place for healing," she said.

Spreading the cheer

When Jones learned that Feight was going to South Korea to organize painting activities in three hospitals there, she convinced him to drop by the Philippines to spread cheer at the AFPMC, an institution close to her father's heart.

Feight, who has been in the business of uplifting the souls of sick patients and their families the last three decades, happily obliged.

"I used to be in the advertising field in New York and Atlanta," Feight told the INQUIRER, adding that he began painting out of frustration.

It was while volunteering at a hospital that he experienced a complete turnaround in his life.

"When I started painting, a little girl touched me and said she wanted to paint," Feight narrated. The girl, he said, had been severely burned in a car explosion.

The experience prompted him to form a nonprofit foundation dedicated to making hospitals a happier place for sick people and their loved ones.

"When patients paint, they just think about what they are painting and not [about] their illness. People who do art, feel half the pain and get out of the hospital in half the time," Feight said, adding that they have already done over 30,000 paintings for 1,500 hospitals in 179 countries.

Releasing the mind

Cpl. James Leonen is set to undergo a special operation to regain the use of his left leg.

The 38-year-old soldier from La Union said painting "released" his mind from his present condition.

"I've seen it all... bloody encounters are a way of life for us," Leonen, who has been confined at the AFPMC for a year, said in Filipino.

He recalled the afternoon in July 2006 when communist rebels in Masinloc, Zambales, shot him in the leg. The encounter left two soldiers wounded and two members of the New People's Army dead.

"But that wasn't the worst battle I'd seen or experienced," Leonen said. The worst, he said, was an operation in Kalinga Apayao 16 years ago when their troops had encounters with rebels every night.

Forgetting the pain

When asked what he thought of the painting activity sponsored by the Ramos family and Feight's group, Leonen grinned like a little boy and said: "While concentrating on my painting, I forgot about my pain."

But after he and his companions finished their paintings and had gone back to their usual routine at the hospital, he started recalling his experiences in the war.

"I guess it's a good idea to have a regular activity like this. It really helps," Leonen said.

Part of a mural

Karen Wilbanks, whose family formed the Robert and Polly Dunn Foundation that sponsored the Manila paintfest, described the activity: Patients are given a kit which consists of paints, brushes and six canvasses with pre-traced subjects. Patients paint as a group and when they finish, the six paintings form a mural.

"We've touched so many people all over the world," Wilbanks said, adding that it was inspiring to see patients' attitudes change in the process.

"At first, the patients stand back and watch us paint. Eventually, they try it. By the time they finish, they don't want to stop painting," Wilbanks said with a chuckle.

According to Feight, the activity has a positive effect on soldiers who have gone to war and have seen the worst of humanity.

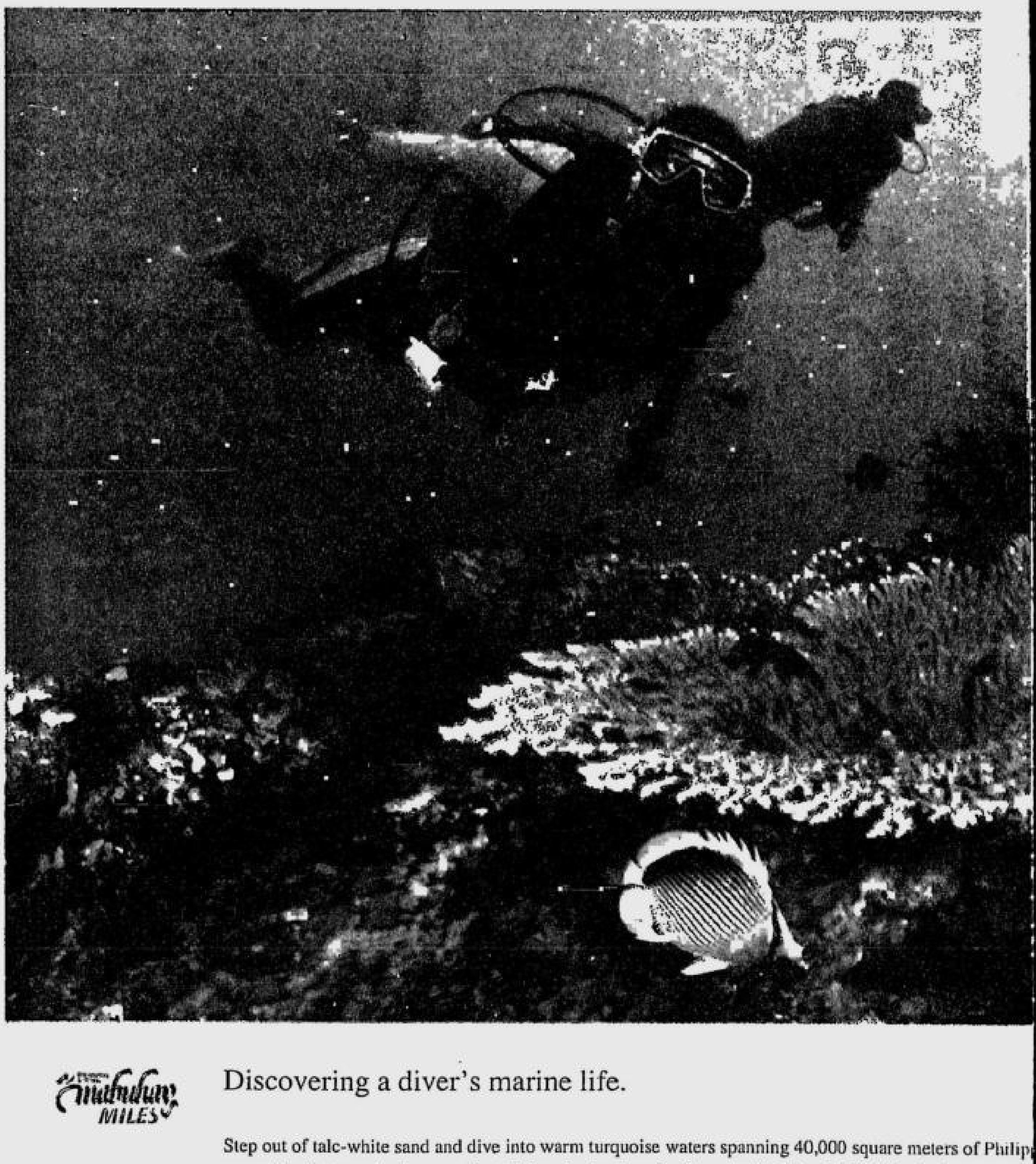
"We're already sending paint kits to Baghdad, Iraq," he said, adding that the soldiers there have pledged to donate their paintings to hospitals.

Something worthwhile

Feight said that after spending three years on the cancer floor where people die every day, he realized that soldiers themselves were faced with the same reality.

"These soldiers know they are going to die," he said. "They want to do something or leave something to the world. By donating a painting to the hospital, they feel like they are leaving something of value."

Pfc. Erwin Enguito, 31, who is waiting for a special procedure on his left leg, agreed. "I felt like I was contributing something while enjoying the task at the same time," he said.



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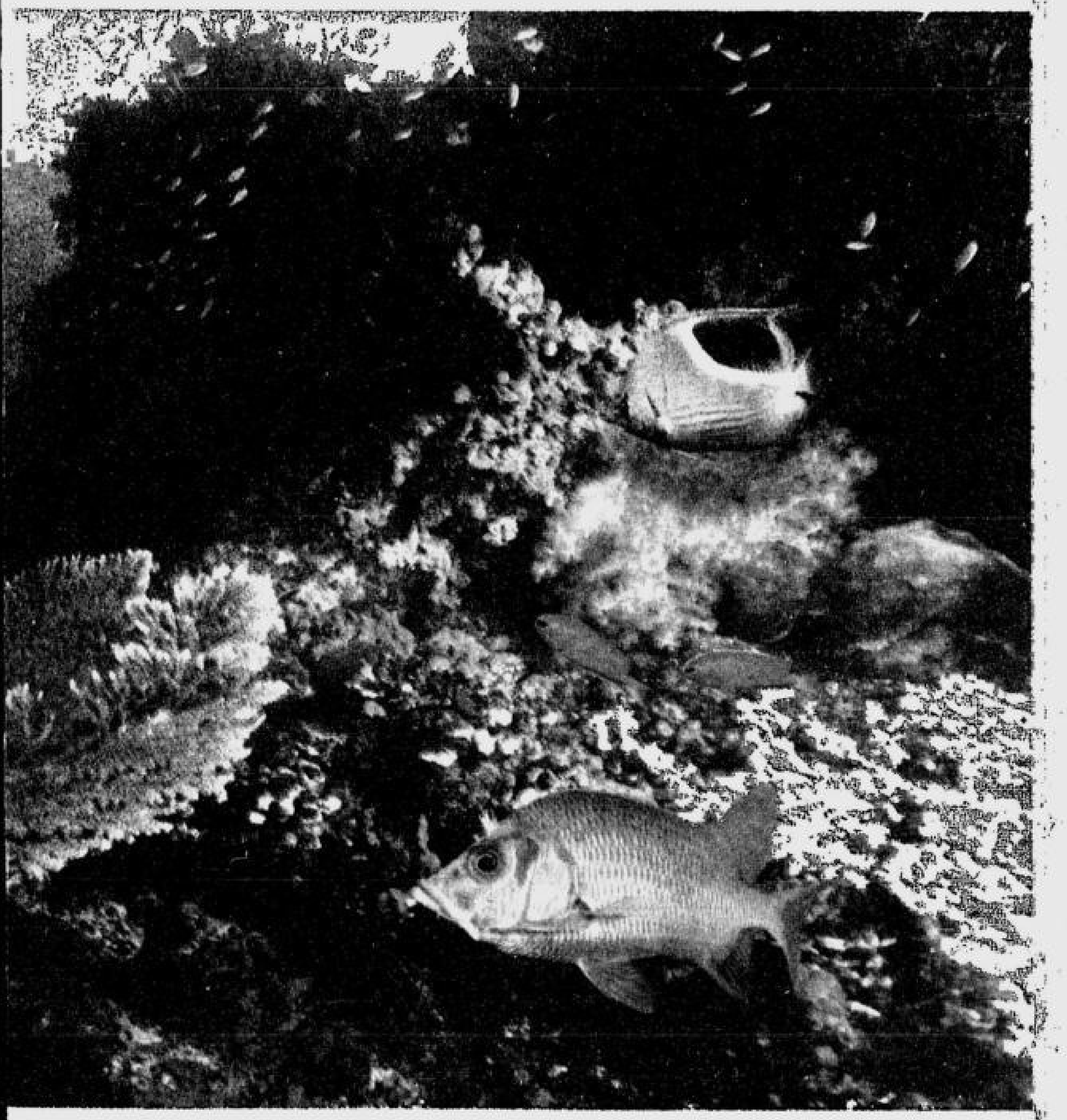

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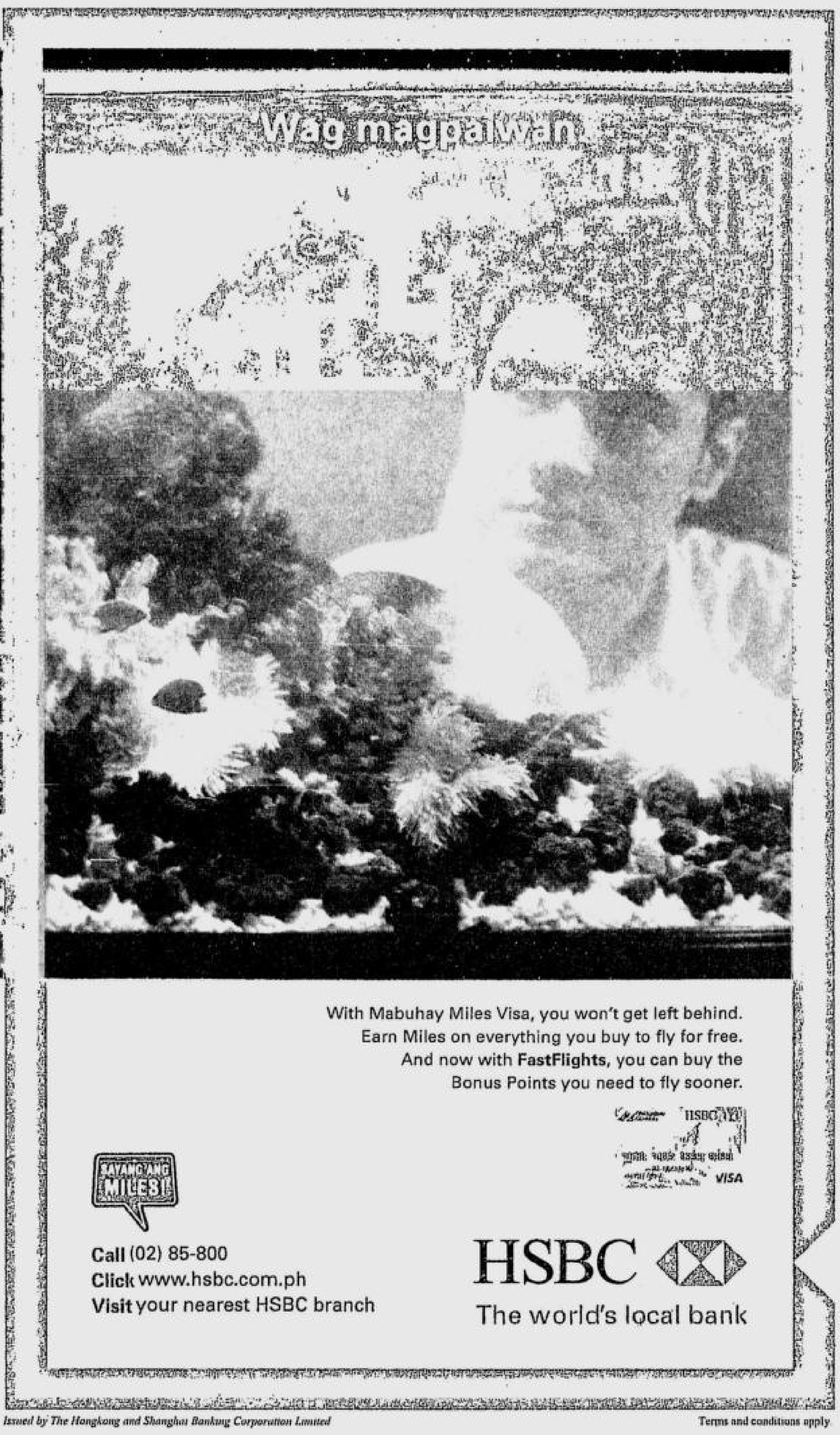

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OPINION

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Grandstanding

EDITORIAL

WHEN THE SENATE CONVENED AS A COURT OF impeachment to try Joseph Ejercito Estrada, it established a lousy precedent. Under American rules, the chief justice presides, and the senators submit their questions in writing. But Filipino senators, puffed up with pride, insisted that the Senate president sit beside the chief justice and worse, that they ask questions themselves. It was for grandstanding purposes, of course; and in their obsession to each be a judge, they forgot that the process they were involved in historically viewed them as a jury. Mercifully, the Filipino people took on the role of being a national jury, which is why that dancing senator helped spark People Power II.

Fast forward to the recent Senate hearings on the new revelations on the Hello Garci tapes and the most recent hearings on the NBN-ZTE deal.

In their zeal to play the role of barangay policemen looking into a purse-snatching incident, the senators overlooked the need not only to understand the big picture, but to inform and educate the public on the crucial oversight role Congress as a whole, the Senate in particular (for lack of any genuine interest in good governance in the House) has. For example, if a senator does not even know what broadband is, he has no right participating in the inquiry. The Senate could very easily have spent a day having the NBN concept explained to it (and the public), and then had the explanation rebutted by its critics. It could then have been established what NBN was supposed to be, and whether, as approved, what was needed was what would be put in place.

There are technical aspects to the proposal, and there are bureaucratic aspects, and even national security and diplomatic concerns. Properly examined by senators who bothered to do their homework, questioning could have been brisk, and to the point. (They have no shortage of staff to predigest information for them, and there are literally countless, good, qualified citizens willing to impart the benefit of their expertise to lawmakers.)

From there, it could have gone on to determining whether the technical aspects of the scheme ended up legally and morally compromised by the behavior of officials. Last Wednesday, everything really damning was revealed within the first two hours of the hearing. The next nine hours were an exercise in pointless repetition, in grandstanding, in petty squabbling, and, on the part of Romulo Neri, in hiding behind claims of executive privilege. Those nine hours could have been spent either in a caucus to adopt a Senate position on the matter, or in a demand for the executive secretary to produce a document justifying Neri's claim of privilege.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, increasingly cantankerous in his old age, at least listened to reason, was open to a compromise by means of an executive session, while that old administration reliable, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, was even prepared to take things to their logical conclusion and force a confrontation, right there and then, with Neri's claim to privilege. From two opposite sides of the political fence, then, these two senators at least achieved a kind of consensus. And that is, that the shield behind which Neri was hiding, was unprecedented, and quite possibly concealed a manifest betrayal of public trust by the President.

The Senate must review its procedures. The lowest point was Richard Gordon acting like a petulant child, insisting on adding a full hour to the proceedings because he craved television time, when even his usually fractious colleagues had decided to go into executive session. Gordon wouldn't even give the chairmen of the committees, Sen. Alan Cayetano in particular, the basic respect due a chairman. We have seen many moments of political degeneracy in our recent Senates, but Gordon's was among the most galling debasements of the Senate. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's slur on an entire civilization came quite close in disgracefulness.

The Senate has no apologies to make for seizing on the ZTE-NBN issue and following the money, as investigators of Watergate were once advised. They are doing their job—but so badly as to be incompetent. They must learn to ask proper questions, which requires teamwork, and they must show they know as much as—if not more than—wily executive officials trying to prevent their finding out the truth.

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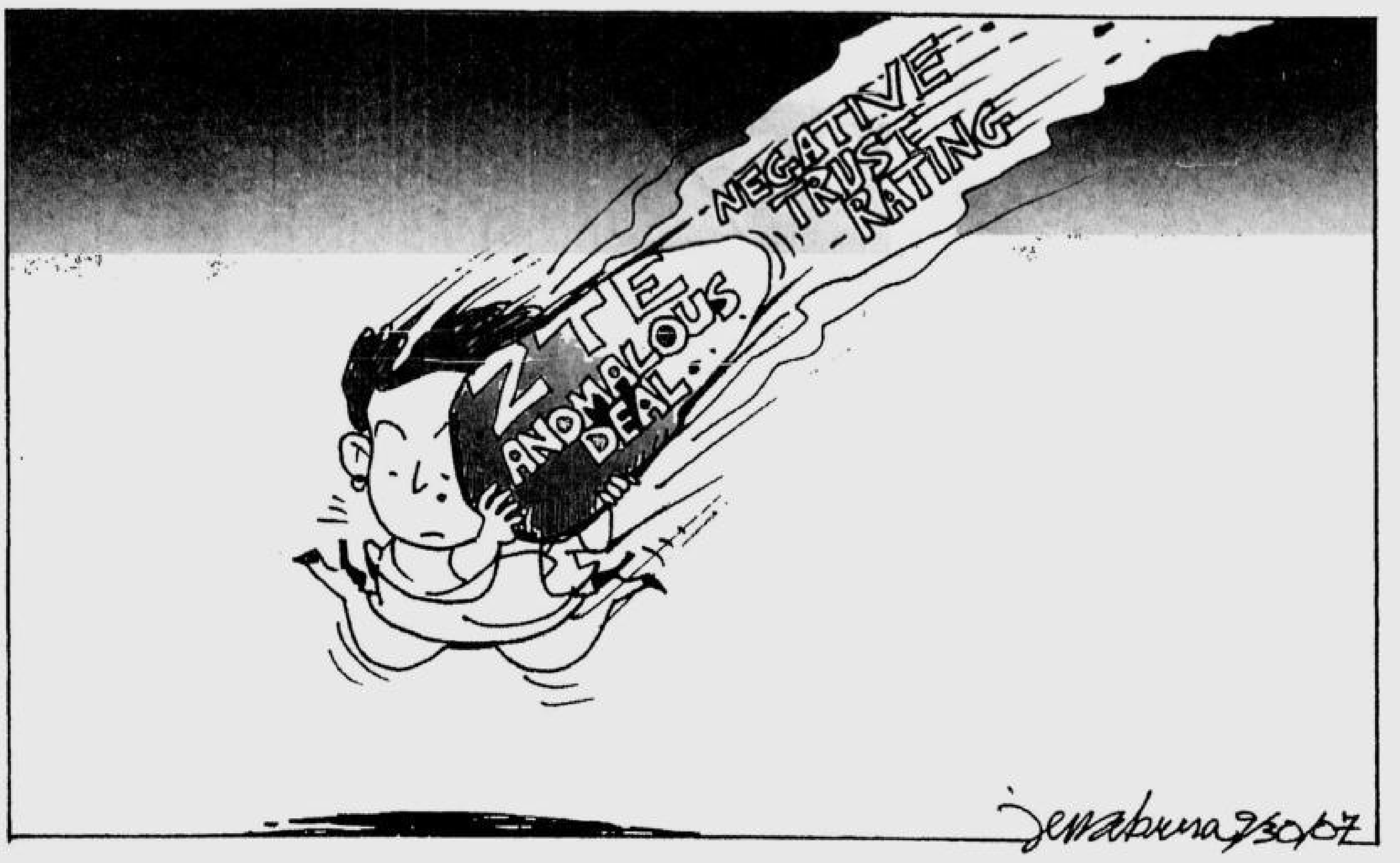

Half-truths and half-lies

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I AM PROBABLY THE ONLY COLUMNIST WHO has not yet written about the NBN project that was the subject of Senate hearings last week. I shall do so now if only to satisfy the curiosity of some readers who may be wondering about my unusual silence.

Let me say at the outset that my views are entirely my own, independent of any social, financial or political influence from others. They are based on what I have read in the papers and the televised hearings where many questions on the subject were discussed, some speculatively and none conclusively. I am not an agent of any private organization with its own secret agenda.

Like many retired citizens who had the opportunity to watch during office hours the proceedings on TV, I have come to certain apprehensions about the nature of the transaction that is now being investigated by the Senate. What we have heard so far may be only the tip of the iceberg that could implicate Malacañang itself in a horrendous scandal.

I must confess that I am an ignoramus on the arguments pro and con the transaction and its unbelievably staggering cost. I shall leave the matter for the financial experts to evaluate objectively, with the public interest as the sole criterion. I shall comment only on the conduct as I saw it of the *dramatis personae* in the recent Senate hearings.

The hearings were not entirely absorbing; in fact, some parts were even boring, especially as exploited by known senators for self-levitation. A few of them read their question from a script prepared by their subordinates instead of raising them extemporaneously like fluent parliamentarians.

I was particularly impressed by the interrogations made by Senators Manuel Roxas II and Francis Escudero, who both showed they had done their homework on the challenged project. The supposed technocrats from the administration must have expected to confuse them with statistical gibberish but the senators were ready with their own educated refutation. The witnesses were hoisted with their own petard.

I was expecting the scorching examination Sen. Joker P. Arroyo displayed at the Estrada impeachment trial, but he simply suggested that the NBN project be completely aborted, visibly unnerving Secretary Leandro Mendoza. The general's consternation looked like a white flag of surrender. Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago deplored the deficient honesty of the principal witnesses who she said, either as a compliment or as a rebuke from the former judge, were only saying half-truths and half-lies.

Like Senator Santiago, I am no longer assessing testimonial evidence from the halls of the high tribunal. I am now only a simple citizen giving his unofficial estimate of the credibility or unreliability of the three principal witnesses at the Senate hearings.

The first of these was Jose de Venecia III representing a lost bidder for the NBN project who apparently was protesting the award to the ZTE Corporation. He accused Miguel Arroyo of confronting him at the Wack Wack restaurant, pointing a threatening finger at him, and angrily telling him to "Back off!" The President's husband denied this, saying he had gone to the club to play golf (in a barong tagalog?) and had only a "chance encounter" with the Speaker's son.

While I am inclined to believe De Venecia, I am wondering what his real purpose was in questioning the ZTE deal. Did he want the award to be reversed or was he simply expecting, or demanding, a "*balato*" from the winning bidder? And where has this 40-year-old person of no known business acumen or private fortune derived the substantial capital to bid for the billion-peso contract?

De Venecia claimed that Benjamin Abalos also told him to "back off" and sweetened the demand with a P10-million bribe that he refused. Abalos denied the charge, but the trouble is that he is not a very believable person, in light of his disreputable record as chair of the Commission on Elections and his suspicious relations with the ZTE officials. He admitted having traveled to China a number of times but denied it was for the purpose of brokering for them with our government.

What is worse is the revelation made by Romulo Neri that in working for the approval of the ZTE contract involving the breathtaking consideration of more than P1.5 billion, Abalos said to him, "Sec, *may* 200 *ka* dito," which he understood to mean P200 million. In refutation, Abalos innocently asked, as any clever lawyer like him would do, "200 of what?" He categorically called Neri a liar.

Romulo Neri appears to be the most believable of the three witnesses, considering his clean living image and his magna cum laude academic credentials from UP and the MBA degree from the University of California. I am disappointed, however, that when asked about President Macapagal-Arroyo's possible involvement in the scandal, he evaded the question and invoked her—not his—"executive privilege" in obedience to Secretary Eduardo Ermita's instruction. Some persons may be honest but not necessarily brave.

Nothing

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

TRY FIGURING THIS OUT: "X" IS IMPOSSIBLE with God; "X" is above God; "X" is more important than love; the rich need "X"; the poor have "X"; if we eat "X," we die. It is a seven-letter word. Answer: "Nothing."

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 16, 19-3), the Lord reminds us that all the riches in this world come to nothing in the end. There is divine justice and there is eternity, when evil will be punished and goodness will be rewarded. All the riches in this world add up to nothing if they are acquired through dishonest ways, and if they are not shared with others.

* * *

At times, one can't help but ask: "Lord, why do the evil ones seem to thrive and prosper in this world?" Perhaps you yourself have asked this question, and have considered giving up your goodness to follow the ways of the world. Please don't. In the end, it pays to be good. Crime does not pay. Goodness pays.

* * *

Death is the great equalizer. We all will die. It's just a matter of time. Our Christian faith teaches us to prepare for eternal life. Sad to see people who are well provided for their earthly journey, but who have no provisions for their journey into eternity.

* * *

I remember how as a little boy, I wished I also had the toys and good food which our rich neighbors had. This is where I appreciate our parents who encouraged us and told us to study well, to be good and to pray much. They taught us the fear of God, and the importance of values. Looking back as a grown-up now (54 tomorrow!), I praise and thank God for our parents who taught us that there are more important things in this life than money and riches.

* * *

As a little boy, my biggest dream was to have my own bicycle. I remember how happy I was whenever I had the chance to push, and more so, to ride our neighbor's bicycle. I don't know how many birthdays and Christmases passed, and still no bicycle, even just a second-hand one. But Papa and Mama always told me: "*Bay-am* Jerry. *Agluwalo ka laeng. Agsingsingpet ka. Agadal ka nga nalaing. Ad danto* Jerry. *Ad danto...*" ("Never mind Jerry. Just pray. Be good. Study well. There will be some day Jerry, there will be...") Papa and Mama never gave me a bicycle, but they gave me hope. They gave me a dream, a vision, something and Someone to believe in.

* * *

With all the blatant lying and corruption going on around us, parents, please teach the children again and again that it is not all right to lie, to steal and to cheat. Please tell the young ones that just because everyone is doing it, and just because our leaders are doing it, that does not mean that they also can and should do it.

* * *

Let me share with you this letter I received from Joanna Francesca, an 11-year-old girl who wrote: Father Orbos, I am second honor in my class. That's because Nicole cheats. She is not honest, that's why she is first honor. No matter how hard I try, I'm still second. But that's OK. I know only God can make a way because every hard work has its prize and every mistake has its own punishment. I know somehow, someday, I can be first honor. Please pray for me.

I wrote back: "Joanna Francesca, by being honest, you are already first honor in God's eyes. Be assured that God knows how to count, and He knows who is naughty or nice. Continue to be good, even if others are not!"

* * *

Inviting you for the "Walk with God" from Urdaneta to Manaoag, Pangasinan this Oct. 6, starting 6 a.m. from the Cathedral of Urdaneta. Let us bring to Mama Mary our petitions and thanksgiving. There will be continuous praying of the rosary and confessions during the three-hour walk, ending with the 11 a.m. Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag. See you! Don't forget: October is the month of the Holy Rosary.

* * *

Oct. 1 is the feast of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Patroness of the Missions. October is mission month. Let us support and pray for our missionaries all over the world. One way of uniting our prayers with them is to pray "The Mysteries of the Mission": (1) The Incarnation; (2) The Epiphany; (3) The Calling of the Twelve; (4) The Washing of the Feet; (5) The Mission Sending of the disciples to the world.

For more details about the booklet "The Mysteries of the Mission," please call the SVD Mission Office (7217457) or Logos Publications (7111323).

* * *

You may now order **Online Mass Cards** for the departed and for special occasions (birthday, wedding anniversary, etc.) Filipinos abroad may send their Mass cards to their loved ones in the Philippines via www.expressregalo.com or call LBC (02)855-0000 or visit any LBC branch nationwide, or call Adtek Innovations Asia Corp. (02) 531-3906, 7473137.

* * *

There is another pilgrimage to Naju, Korea from Nov. 14 to 20. It is a wonderful opportunity to renew our faith and to encounter the Korean visionary Julia Kim. For particulars, please call 9130388; 9111394 or 09212866810.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me that all worldly riches, power and fame will fade and come to nothing in the end. Amen.

For or against GMA

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

MY AUG. 12 COLUMN, TITLED "GMA'S LEGACY," continues to draw reactions. One was quite pointed, even sarcastic, "After the Supreme Court—under your leadership last year—dealt successive blows to GMA [Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo], how can you say that, as a Filipino, you still 'want the President to succeed and foster democracy and development; freedom and food; nay, liberty and prosperity for all.' I thought all along that you have joined us in the anti-GMA movement."

For or against actions, not persons. I write for or against causes, actions and principles, not pro or contra persons and personalities. As a retired jurist, I am used to deciding in favor of or against petitions or complaints, not pro or contra the parties in the controversy. I am interested in **what wins**, not in **who wins**. I impugn the crime, but I do not detest the criminal. As Christian theology goes, we hate sin but not the sinner. And we do not just criticize; we also help find solutions.

My said column stated that it is difficult to fault the President's aspirations for an infrastructure-laden legacy. However, I also cautioned that while it is good to aspire for the many things that **money can buy**—like roads, bridges, airports, and school houses—it is better to have, first and foremost, the things that **money cannot buy**, like integrity, public esteem, character, moral ascendancy and **credibility**. Without credibility, no leader can succeed. And **visionary leadership by example** is the best way to lead and to gain credibility.

GMA's worst failing. I think that GMA's worst failing is in transparent and accountable governance, resulting in her massive **loss of credibility**. For too long, her trust rating has been miserably low. According to the most recent SWS survey, issued on Sept. 24, it is now a dismal minus 11. Our people have a deep-seated impression of widespread graft in her government. Worse, she is not doing enough to abate, or even minimize it. In fact, the Philippines had fallen from 121st to 131st place, out of 180 countries in the corruption rating of the Berlin-based Transparency International (INQUIRER, 9/27/07).

To regain her credibility, I have suggested that she (1) direct all her close relatives, officials and cronies to "follow strictly the Constitution, anti-graft law, ethical standards law, public bidding laws and similar codes;" and (2) fortify "our democratic institutions by naming trustworthy officials, especially to the Supreme Court and the Commission on Elections." I added, "With prudent legal advice, goals can be attained under the rule of law."

The rebounding economy. On the other hand, the most bright-lined area of her governance is the improved economy. Though not an economist, I can feel the effects of economic indicators. The budget deficit has been arrested, thus reducing foreign borrowing; the interest and inflation rates are at an all-time low, enabling consumers to stretch their buying power especially in durables like homes and condos; the peso has risen in value, enhancing the people's ability to enjoy their income.

Many say that the economy is propelled by the sweat of the overseas Filipino workers, not by the genius of GMA. They argue that the OFWs who remitted a hefty $14 billion last year—double that sent five years ago—are the real heroes. Of that, there is no doubt.

But GMA's Herculean effort in pushing for the expanded Value Added Tax (EVAT), the privatization program especially of the power sector, foreign investments in large-scale mining, the major rise in tourism arrivals, and the resurgent stock market cannot be brushed aside. New investments mean more jobs, more production and more income.

Certainly, the OFW remittances are a major reason for our economic upturn, measured at a record 7.5 percent annual rate in the second quarter this year. But GMA deserves equal credit (or discredit?). In fact, consumers are still pillorying her for the higher EVAT they pay, especially for oil products that used to be VAT-exempt. Indeed, the defeat in the last senatorial election of GMA's candidates, like Ralph Recto and Mike Defensor, has been attributed invariably to the perceived evils of EVAT.

Her critics further lament that the rebounding economy is a myth, a statistical hocus-pocus, because the poor do not feel its effects. Maybe so, but we must begin with the first of a thousand steps. The resurgence of Korea, Singapore, and now of China needed several years of spectacular growth before the benefits reached the masses.

Credibility, first and foremost. Which brings me back to GMA's basic problem of low credibility. A cancer patient who trusts a physician will not resent the debilitation of chemotherapy. Similarly, a people who have confidence in their leader will willingly suffer transitory torment, in exchange for the eventual healing of their malady.

In contrast, the leader who is not trusted will be mocked not only for the real economic malaise but also for the temporary pain caused incidentally by the remedy. The applause of the world media (Wall Street Journal, Clinton Global Initiative, etc.) confirms GMA's work to the converted, but not to the non-trusting locals who remember only the agony of her reign.

That was what happened in India. The leaders who prescribed the painful medicine were booted out of power, and the politicians who opposed them were voted in to revel in the prosperity started by the hated reformers. The moral lesson: **aspire for credibility, first and foremost.**

* * *

Comments are welcome at chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

A prayer for Burma

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE IMAGES ALONE ARE BREATHTAKING, stunning. Buddhist monks in their saffron robes marching en masse, some with fists raised in the air. Young people, apparently students, joining the monks and holding up placards, filling up the streets of Rangoon (Yangon). And the latest, most shocking image: the body of a Japanese photojournalist sprawled on the pavement as an armed Burmese soldier stands over him.

We had thrilled to news of a popular uprising in Burma, of the long-cowed citizens finding their voice and raising it in protest, initially against a sudden spike in oil prices, and thence against the junta's decades-long repressive regime. We, who still harbor vestiges of pride in our displays of "people power," prayed the Burmese version would succeed, without too much bloodshed, and without throwing their poor country into chaos.

But developments give us cause for pause, if not sorrow. Soldiers have been deployed to hunt down the protesters, putting down any assemblage of folk with harsh measures, including firing directly into crowds. Aung San Suu Kyi, who—as British Prime Minister Gordon Brown asserted—must be "at the heart" of any negotiations for a return to democracy, has been forcibly moved from her residence, where she has been on house arrest, to an undisclosed location, but most probably a military camp.

Ironically, most reports describe the military clampdown on protests as "muted," with the toll in deaths and casualties yet to approach the 3,000 lives lost in a similar uprising in 1988. Foreign wire stories attribute the restraint to the presence of monks among the marching crowds, with the military rulers fearing that the death of one of the monks, who are revered in this Buddhist nation, could lead to even more widespread anger.

* * *

FOREIGN reaction has been swift and so far highly critical, if not furious, at the Burmese government's use of force to put down a peaceful protest. And perhaps this will reach a boil with the killing of the Japanese photojournalist. Still, the ruling junta has for decades managed to withstand withering international criticism and even sanctions. The Japanese government seems to have hit upon the right response when it said it would suspend humanitarian aid to the country after an investigation into the circumstances of Kenji Nagai's death. Still, will this be enough to force a change of heart among the recalcitrant generals?

The President, in her speech before the UN General Assembly, did right in calling for an end to the violence, the release of Suu Kyi, and a return to democracy. She even joined other Asean leaders in expressing their "revulsion" at the armed repression of the demonstrators, and said she was "frustrated" at the regime's continued indifference to calls for more democratization.

All we, as ordinary Filipinos, can do at this point is to pray for our Burmese brethren. We can also offer the consolations of memory. Who knew more than 20 years ago that our street protests would lead to the ouster of a dictator? For the sake of Burma's people, we hope their courage will be rewarded with greater freedoms and genuine democracy.

* * *

"HOW can you prioritize when there are so many problems, all of them needing urgent attention?" Environment Secretary Lito Atienza replied when asked what concerns topped his list of priorities at the department. Indeed, from global warming to mining, from solid waste management to deforestation, from endangered marine environments to urban blight—the problems are as varied as they are numerous.

One policy, though, seems foremost in his agenda, and that is the mobilization of local government units—from provincial governments to those of cities, towns and even barangays—to implement DENR policies as well as laws on the environment. "What can the department, with just over 20,000 employees, do to ensure that our laws are followed and that the environment is protected?" he asks rhetorically. The solution, he says, lies in making use of the LGUs, which are, after all, most intimately connected to environmental problems and resource utilization in their areas, and which would be accountable to their constituents should their neglect lead to disaster or blight.

That may even be the reason, he surmises, for his appointment to the DENR: "The President may have wanted someone with experience in local governance and who could talk to the executives." Besides, he quips, "don't you think my fashion preference makes me the ideal environment secretary?" He was, of course, referring to the colorful shirts which have become his trademark, many of them bearing flora and fauna themes.

* * *

OVER DINNER with a group of women journalists, Atienza tried time and again to steer the discussion solely to the environment and what he feels needs to be done to address the wide, varied and even contradictory issues that arise from such concerns.

But this being the evening of the Senate hearings on the ZTE deal, which he had been attending "just to give moral support" to his colleagues in the Cabinet, talk invariably turned to the scandal, even if, in the end, we could get nothing especially juicy from him.

What emerges at the end of the lively dinner, though, is that in Atienza, the country has found an environment secretary with a decidedly pragmatic, "political" approach, as contrasted perhaps with predecessors who took on the post as advocates or enforcers. Some of his policies, such as favoring the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement, may not sit well with detractors, especially environment champions. But if he can harness local government support and action for sustainability, then he deserves, at the very least, a hearing and time to prove his worth.

China's 'Burma Test'

WORLD VIEW

Steve Tsang

BURMA'S (MYANMAR'S) GENERALS WILL HAVE little incentive to opt for an alternative to bloodshed and repression if China continues to provide them with support and protection against sanctions at the UN Security Council.

China has more influence over Burma's ruling generals than any other country. Indeed, without Chinese support, it is debatable whether the Burmese regime could sustain itself. So, while the current crisis in Burma is not of China's making, any peaceful settlement may be possible only if China acts to support it.

China is thus facing an unwanted test of its claim to be a responsible stakeholder in the international community. With 3,000 villages destroyed and 1.5 million people already displaced in eastern Burma, a humanitarian disaster has been unfolding for some time now. Throughout these troubles, China has held its tongue, sticking to its policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of any nation.

But that policy may no longer be tenable, because it is in China's interest to find an effective alternative to a brutal crackdown, which would only remind the world vividly of the massacres in Rangoon (Yangon) in 1988 and in Tiananmen Square the following year. With some international celebrities already keen to start a campaign to boycott the Beijing Olympics because of China's support for some of the world's most repressive and incompetent regimes, a military crackdown in Burma is the last thing the Chinese authorities can afford.

Moreover, China's rulers are focused on the looming 17th Congress of the Communist Party, which could likewise be spoiled by a bloody confrontation in Burma.

Yet China may be able to preempt such an outcome by making the option of a brutal crackdown prohibitively high to the Burmese regime. It should privately threaten to cut off all aid and trade links, and to end its protection of the regime within the United Nations from any additional international sanctions.

As an inducement to peaceful change, China can also guarantee the personal safety and wealth of the military junta should its members have to leave Burma suddenly. But China should make it clear that such protection requires the Burmese generals to cooperate in finding a peaceful solution. China should also publicly work within the UN and with Asean to find a way in which the international community can help to resolve the crisis peacefully.

Ultimately, a solution can be found only within Burma itself. The junta can do worse than releasing and working with Aung San Suu Kyi, who still has sufficient status and appeal to rally public support for a peaceful transfer of power to civilian rule and, in due course, to a democratic government. It may be morally repulsive to allow the junta's members to retire with their ill-gotten gains, but any alternative will exact a dramatically higher price from Burma's people.

China's national interest does not require it to prop up the Burmese junta forever. Of course, China benefits greatly from access to Burma's energy and other natural resources. But, by playing a positive role in bringing about a successful and peaceful transfer of power, China can secure a friendly neighbor in Burma more effectively than with its current policy, which merely incurs the hatred of the Burmese people.

As a matter of geo-political strategy, taking a positive lead in Burma can help China reassure its neighbors that its policy of a "peaceful rise" is real and beneficial. Whatever Asean governments say in public, welcoming that rise, their lingering doubts and suspicions will not be erased unless they see China actively playing a positive role in assuring regional stability. The current crisis in Burma offers China a rare opportunity to do so.

The international community, too, has a vested interest in seeing that China rises peacefully. It should encourage and support China in taking the lead over Burma, so long as China commits itself to finding a peaceful solution. The international community's objective should be restricted to a peaceful outcome that allows Burma's people to work out their own solution.

Any change of regime in Burma will not be the result of international intervention, but of political negotiations between the junta and its domestic opponents. China should thus recognize that using its influence would not imply accepting as a matter of principle intervention in other countries' domestic affairs.

Project Syndicate

Steve Tsang is a fellow of St. Antony's College, Oxford University, and author of "The Cold War's Odd Couple: The Unintended Partnership between the Republic of China and the UK, 1950-58."

Road to Rangoon

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

BURMA (MYANMAR) IS QUIET NOW. THE STREETS HAVE emptied. Those outside the country are concerned about the silence—information is scarce, mobile telephones of sources have been cut off, cameras have been confiscated. Reports say that authorities are closing down Internet cafés. Sunai Phasuk, a representative of Human Rights Watch in Thailand, said they have lost all contact with Burma. "We cannot reach them any more."

The protests began on Aug. 19, against the sudden sharp increases in fuel prices. Many claim they were really in protest of the decades-long military government that has bent the country close to breaking. In an unprecedented move, monks, who generally distanced themselves from the citizens' daily affairs, rose, red-robed and silent, to lead the people in a rally reaching tens of thousands.

There are images: the Japanese photographer lying on the street, the abbot forced to walk like a dog, the monks in their red robes beaten and arrested on their knees. Early on Thursday morning, security forces fired shots at one of several monasteries. One monk said at least 70 of its 150 monks were arrested.

The violence began in the dark, before dawn, with raids on Buddhist monasteries. Throughout the day, there were beatings, tear gas and storms of gunshots along the streets of Rangoon (Yangon).

There are witnesses who say soldiers fired automatic weapons into a crowd of protesters. Official tallies announce that nine people had been killed. The death toll, according to Australia's envoy to Burma, is "several multiples of the 10 acknowledged by the authorities."

It is no longer difficult to believe that this is possible, that there are men who consciously and indiscriminately deal out death. This is the Philippines, after all—what Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo calls "the most democratic country in the region," so democratic, in fact, that the freedom of expression of members of the military extends to murder with impunity. It is a land where denial is state policy, and apathy is a necessary virtue for survival.

President Arroyo, at the 62nd United Nations General Assembly last Friday, demanded that Burma "return to the path of democracy and to release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi—now." That demand comes a day after she is praised by former US President Bill Clinton for her success in turning the Philippines around. Everyone, he says, is afraid of Ms Arroyo. Clinton meant it in jest, but to those under her fist, the spirit of the statement is true—people are afraid of her, and it is not because she is good. What is difficult to believe is not the cruelty in Burma, but the President's capacity to stand before the international community with pride, and announce that the Philippines "has a paradigm for peace."

That such cruelty there must stop is of primary interest to an international community that claims to have evolved beyond the killing fields of Hitler's Holocaust. The world needs to condemn Burma, and it has. Even Burma's long-time patron and protector China has demanded a stop to the violence. It is no longer a matter of sovereignty, or Burma's right to protect its national interest. Aung San Suu Kyi, the woman that Africa's Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu calls his poster girl for peace, still languishes under house arrest years after her party landed 80 percent of the seats in Burma's parliamentary elections.

It is the same interest of humanity that compels us, no matter how cynical we have become to images of brutality and inhumanity, to stand up and speak here in the Philippines. Many have died in Burma, some whose names will not be remembered. And here, in Asia's darling of democracy, many too have died, and many will die, because of some twisted perspective of what democracy should be. Perhaps it is even more ominous, because here, violence is done while the President smiles and tells the world that "peace does not come from the barrel of a gun."

If there is anything to learn from Rangoon, it is this: the right to human dignity is not geographic, it is a fact of being human.

* * *

For comments, just text: PM REBEL name, age, location, message then send to 2948 for Globe/Sun and 3940 for Smart. E-mail at rebel.inquirer@gmail.com

THEY SAID

Conjugal dictatorship (2)

"It was a conjugal dictatorship then by Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos, now it's Gloria and Mike Arroyo. The issues before martial law was declared are still prevalent now. The only difference is that it was openly declared martial rule while Arroyo has not."

—Danilo Ramos, secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, on the anniversary of Marcos' declaration of martial law

Illegal tenant

"This verdict is intended to legitimize the occupancy of an illegal tenant in Malacañang."

—Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, after his father was convicted of plunder

Lie-hater

"What this witness is telling me is that he is inconsistent, he is lying and I don't appreciate that. He's really the master of double talk."

—Administration Sen. Richard Gordon, on former military intelligence officer Vidal Doble

Insatiable trio

"I told Doble at the outset, you don't have to consult your lawyer if you are telling the truth. You cannot pacify these people—Senators Dick Gordon, Enrile and Arroyo—no matter how many witnesses you present. They will never be satisfied because they have their own mind-set to protect, which is Malacañang's."

—Sen. Panfilo Lacson

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TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to
jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**

Fast facts

- **Opening ceremony:** 08-08-08
- **Slogan:** One world, one dream
- **Participating countries:** 205
- **Sports:** 28, **Events:** 302
- **Gold medals:** 302
- **Athletes:** 10,708
- **Volunteers:** 70,000
- **Accredited print journalists and photographers:** 5,600
- **Rights holding broadcaster staff:** 12,000
- **Host broadcaster:** Beijing Olympic Broadcasting Co. (BOB)
- **BOB staff:** 4,000
- **Tickets:** 7 million on sale to public starting April (58 percent of the tickets are for students. The discounted tickets for students cost less than RMB 100).
- **Competition venues:** 37, 31 of which are located in Beijing
- **Other host cities, region:** Shanghai, Tianjin, Shenyang and Qinhuangdao (*football*); Qingdao (*sailing*); and, Hong Kong (*equestrian*)
- **Emblem:** The "Dancing Beijing." The emblem depicts a Chinese seal inscribed with the stylized calligraphic character "Jing" (from the name of the host city) in the form of a dancing figure.

The emblem stands for a running figure embracing victory with open arms.

Beijing 2008

Rings, motto origins

THE FIVE INTERLINKED rings in the Olympic flag represent the five continents. The colors on the flag—white (background), blue, black, red, yellow and green—represent all nations.

They are interlaced to show "the universality of Olympism," as well as the meeting of the athletes from all parts of the world during the Games.

The Olympic motto is made up of three Latin words: *citius, altius, fortius*, which mean faster, higher, stronger.

The history of the Olympic Games goes all the way back to 3,000 years ago in Greece. Greek mythology holds that the Games were founded in the Peloponnese, where the site of the ancient Olympic Games, Olympia, can be found.

776 BC

The exact year of the first Games is still a matter of dispute, but tradition holds that the Olympic games began in 776 BC, and lasted for centuries until it was abolished in 393 AD by order of Theodosios I.

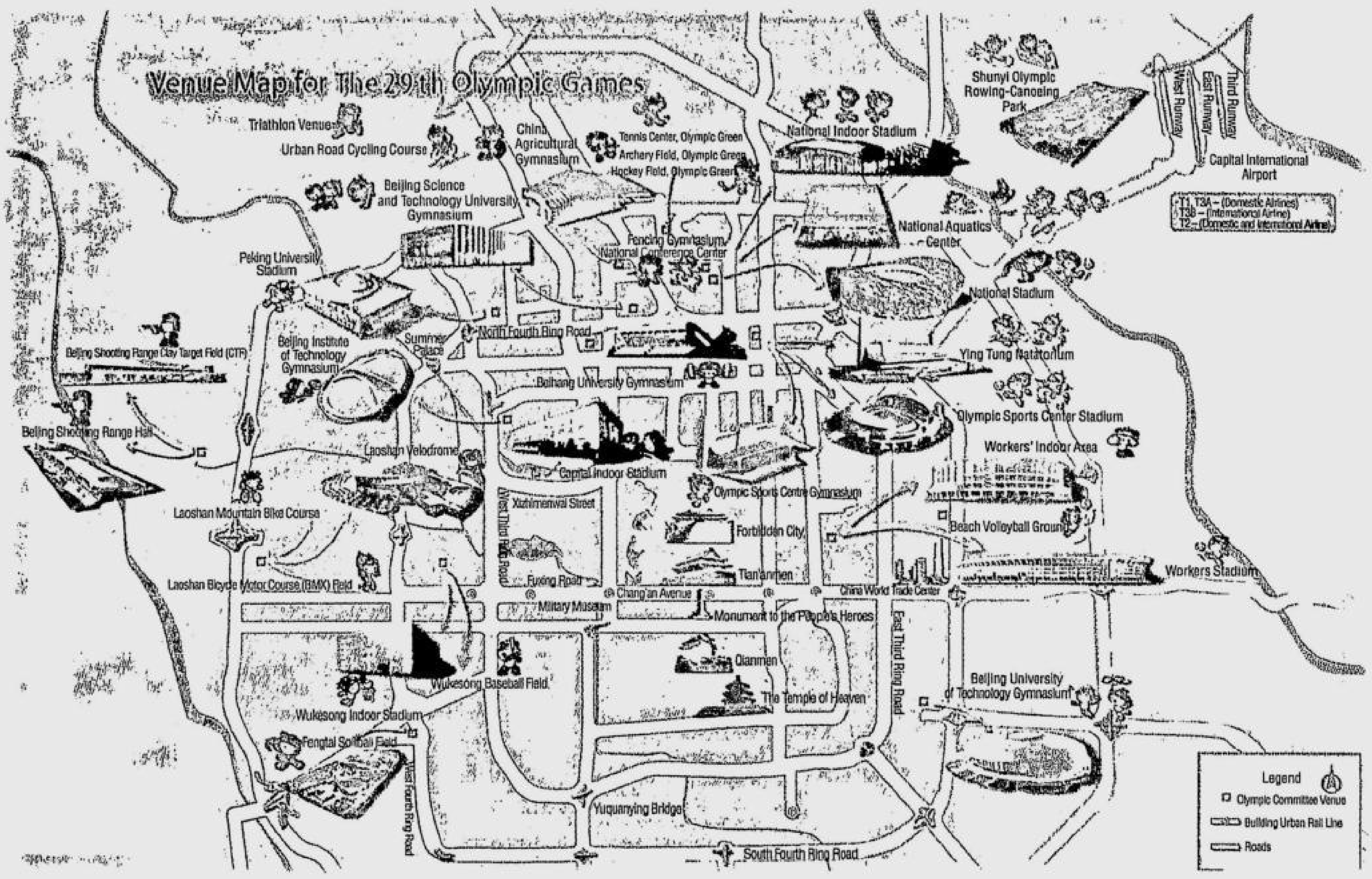
It is believed that the Roman emperors halted its practice when they formally adopted Christianity, as the Olympic games were held in honor of the Greek god Zeus.

Ancient Olympic games included running, jumping, discus throw, wrestling, boxing and equestrian.

The Olympic games were "revived" at the turn of the 19th century, with Pierre de Coubertin founding the International Olympic Committee in June 1894.

The first Olympic games of the modern era were held two years later in Athens, Greece.

Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research


Venue Map for The 29th Olympic Games
Triathlon Venue
Urban Road Cycling Course
China Agricultural Gymnasium
Tennis Center, Olympic Green
Archery Field, Olympic Green
Hockey Field, Olympic Green
National Indoor Stadium
Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park
West Runway
East Runway
Third Runway
Capital International Airport
T1, T3A – (Domestic Airlines)
T3B – (International Airline)
T2 – (Domestic and International Airline)
Beijing Science and Technology University Gymnasium
National Aquatics Center
Peking University Stadium
Fencing Gymnasium, National Conference Center
National Stadium
Beijing Shooting Range Clay Target Field (CTF)
Beijing Institute of Technology Gymnasium
Summer Palace
North Fourth Ring Road
Ying Tung Natatorium
Beihang University Gymnasium
Olympic Sports Center Stadium
Beijing Shooting Range Hall
Laoshan Velodrome
Workers' Indoor Area
Capital Indoor Stadium
Olympic Sports Centre Gymnasium
Laoshan Mountain Bike Course
Xizhimenwai Street
West Third Ring Road
Forbidden City
Beach Volleyball Ground
Laoshan Bicycle Motor Course (BMX) Field
Fuxing Road
Tian'anmen
Workers Stadium
Chang'an Avenue
China World Trade Center
Military Museum
Monument to the People's Heroes
East Third Ring Road
Qianmen
Wukesong Baseball Field
The Temple of Heaven
Beijing University of Technology Gymnasium
Wukesong Indoor Stadium
Fengtai Softball Field
West Fourth Ring Road
Yuquanying Bridge
South Fourth Ring Road
Legend
Olympic Committee Venue
Building Urban Rail Line
Roads

Countdown to 29th Olympiad

THE SKIES OVER BEIJING ONE AFTERNOON IN THE THIRD WEEK OF AUGUST were hazy even by the standards of Metro Manila, an urban sprawl of 12 million people suffering from toxic emissions from motor vehicles and smokestacks.

A resident attributed the light brown shroud covering the Chinese capital to construction activities.

Massive are the construction activities in the city, many of them in preparation for the 29th Olympiad.

A third terminal and runway being built at the Beijing International Airport are among the biggest in the world. A light-rail system that will connect the airport to the city center and new subway lines that will bring people to the Olympic venues are taking shape.

Work at the Olympic Green, site of the "Bird's Nest," the "Water Cube" and the National Indoor Stadium, is frenetic.

Luxury hotels and other buildings like the headquarters of China Central Television (CCTV), the 230-meter-high L-shaped towers that lean into each other, are changing the skyline of the imperial capital founded by Kublai Khan.

The building frenzy has prompted cultural and heritage experts to bemoan the loss of another slice of old Beijing charm, especially the residential lanes known as *hutongs*, Mongol word for "alleyway."

The construction activities, coupled with emissions from millions of cars and from factories, have made air pollution in Beijing a threat to one's health.

Authorities have taken steps to ensure blue skies and clean air during the 2008 Olympics, considered a coming-of-age party for the world's newest economic superpower.

A steel mill that employs more than 100,000 people has been transferred to a neighboring province. "To relocate it shows the determination of the government in the run-up to the Olympic Games," said Li Changchun, a member of the standing committee of the Political Bureau of China's ruling party.

Last month, authorities tried an odd-even scheme to reduce the number of cars in the streets. All cars must meet new emission standards so they could run in Beijing during the Games.

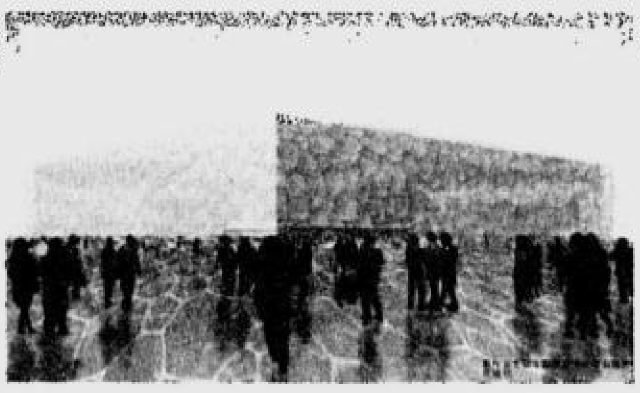
To encourage residents to take public transportation, authorities have offered discounted fares on long buses (a bus looks like two long coaches connected by a giant accordion) running on compressed natural gas. *Tranvias*, electric-powered street cars, also ply the city. So do bicycles.

Beijing is pulling out all the stops to ensure that the opening and closing ceremonies of the Summer Games are held under clear skies. The Beijing Weather Modification Office has tried firing shells loaded with chemicals into the sky to produce rain in advance or to extinguish rain clouds.

Authorities have also relaxed the rules for foreign journalists. They may travel across China to interview people and report on activities "without restrictions," said Gao Changli, deputy director for media operations of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the 29th Olympiad.

"To interview organizations or individuals in China, journalists need only to obtain their prior consent. Foreign journalists can carry out reporting activities not only on the Beijing Olympic Games and the preparatory period, but also on politics, economy, society and culture of China," Gao told a group of editors from Southeast Asia, China, Japan and South Korea last month.

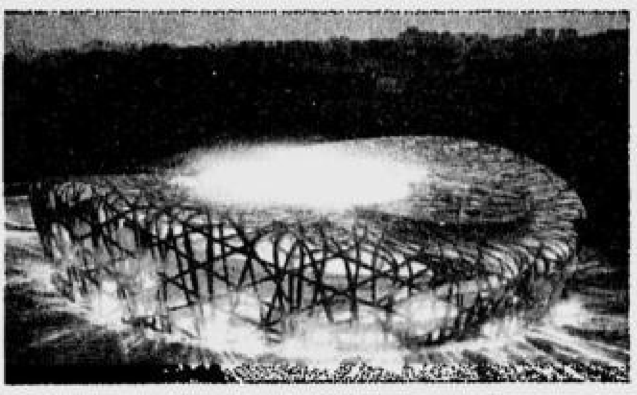
The world hopes that China can deliver on its promise of press freedom and a green Olympics.


BOCOG

NATIONAL AQUATICS CENTER
Called the "Water Cube," it will hold swimming, diving and synchronized swimming events. It was designed by the Australian firm PTW. Its walls were based on the physics of soap bubbles.

JVS JR.

TIANJIN OLYMPIC CENTER
The RMB 1.5-billion (about $200 million) stadium will host 12 soccer preliminary games. Several games of the Women's World Cup were played at the 60-000-seat stadium early this month.


BOCOG

NATIONAL STADIUM
The 90,000-seat "Bird's Nest" will hold the opening and closing ceremonies, athletics and football competitions. The stadium was designed by Herzog & de Meurown with Beijing artist Ai Weiwei.

4 clusters, press center with 2 hotels

THE VENUES IN BEIJING ARE concentrated in four clusters: the Olympic Green, Western Community, University Area and North Scenic Area.

The Olympic Green covers 1,135 hectares, including a 680-hectare forest park and a 405-hectare central area.

It includes 10 competition venues like the National Stadium, National Indoor Stadium, National Aquatics Center and six noncompetition venues like the Main Press Center (MPC), International Broadcast Center, and Olympic Village.

The MPC is the central work place for accredited print and photographers, providing them with 24-hour support facilities, news and information services. It is also the headquarters of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games (Bocog) of the XXIX Olympiad and International Olympic Committee Press Operations.

Located at the west flank of the Beijing Olympic Green, just opposite the International Broadcast Center, the MPC provides accredited press with an easy access to the National Stadium, the National Aquatics Center, the National Indoor Stadium, seven other competition venues and the Olympic Village.

With a floor area of 60,000 square meters, the three-story MPC building will be the largest in Olympic history.

There will be two media hotels within the building of the MPC—a three-star and a five-star—also a first in Olympic history. *Gao Changli, Bocog deputy director*

MONGOLIA
CHINA
Beijing
Shenyang
Qinhuangdao
Tianjin
Qingdao
Shanghai
TAIWAN
Hong Kong
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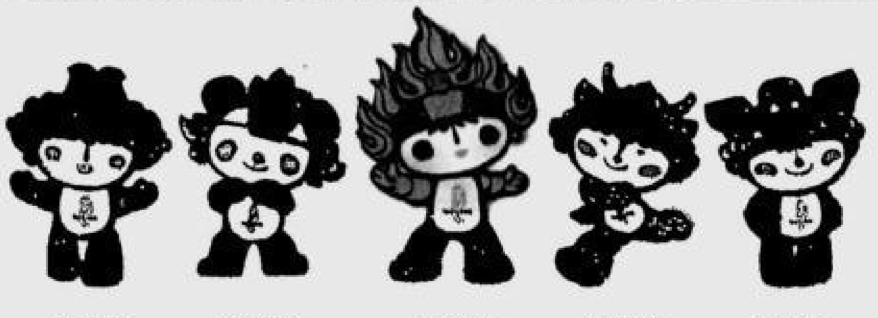
Beibei
Jingjing
Huanhuan
Yingying
Nini

Mascots

Like the five Olympic rings from which they draw their color and inspiration, the *fuwa* (literally "Good-luck" dolls) will serve as the official mascots. They are *Beibi*, the fish; *Jingjing*, the panda; *Huanhuan*, the Olympic flame; *Yingying*, the Tibetan antelope; and *Nini*, the swallow.

When put together—*Bei, Jing, Huan, Ying, Ni*—they say "Beijing Welcomes You."

ISANG BUKAS NA LIHAM PARA SA PANGULO

Mahal na Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:

Sa mga nakalipas na panahon, ang Lalawigan ng Bulacan ay kinilala bilang isa sa pinakamatagumpay na pamahalaang lokal sa buong bansa. Malaking bahagi ng tagumpay na ito ay ang maayos na pag-uugnayan ng ating mga pinuno at ng ating kapulisan, na nagdulot ng magandang kalalagayan ng kaayusan at kapayapaan sa buong lalawigan.

Subalit sa ilang buwan na nakalipas, sa ilalim ng pamamahala ng bagong itinalagang Provincial Director ng Philippine National Police na si PS/Supt. Asher Dolina, ay labis po kaming nabahala at nalungkot sapagkat ayon sa opisyal na talaan ng PNP, ang Average Monthly Crime Rate (AMCR) sa lalawigan ay patuloy na tumataas, samantalang ang Crime Solution Efficiency ng PNP Bulacan ay patuloy namang bumababa. Simula Enero-Hunyo, 2007 ay biglang tumaas sa 3.86% ang aming crime rate, kumpara noong nakaraang taon na 2.96% lamang. Ngayon, sa ikatlong quarter ng taon, ang aming AMCR ay lalong tumaas sa 4.9%. Samantala, ang Crime Solution Efficiency naman ng PNP-Bulacan na noon ay nasa 86.05%, ay ngayo'y 71.30% na lamang. Patunay nito ang patuloy na pagdami ng mga iligal na pasugalan sa lalawigan, ang halos araw-araw na carnapping, at ang pagtaas ng insidente ng krimen sa iba't ibang bayan.

Gayundin, sa ilalim ng pamumuno ni PD Dolina, nalagay sa balag ng alanganin ang mga programang pang-kaayusan na kaytagal pinagtulungan ng Limang Haligi ng Katarungan sa Lalawigan. Kabilang na dito ang inobasyong aming pinasimulan hinggil sa Case Tracking on Illegal Drugs, na magmula ng natalaga si PS/Supt. Dolina sa Bulacan ay hindi na umusad pa, bagamat ilang taong pinaghirapan at pinagtulungan ng aming piskalya, mga hukom, at ng mga lokal na pamahalaan bago naupo si PS/Supt. Dolina.

Dagdag pa rito, si PS/Supt. Dolina ay naitalaga lamang sa Bulacan bunsod ng natapos na halalan noong nakaraang Mayo, subalit hindi dumaan sa ligal na proseso ng pagpili batay na rin sa isinasaad ng batas (Republic Act No. 6975) na nagbibigay-karapatan sa mga local chief executives na pumili ng kanilang Provincial Director mula sa listahang irerekomenda ng PNP. Taliwas sa layon ng batas, si PS/Supt. Dolina ay itinalaga ng PNP ng walang pahintulot mula sa aming pinuno ng lalawigan, na isang direktang pagwawalang-bahala sa awtonomiya ng mga lokal na pamahalaan, at sa karapatan ng mga Punong Lalawigan.

Dahil dito, magkahiwalay na resolusyon ang ipinasa ng Sangguniang Panlalawigan ng Bulacan at ng League of Municipalities – Bulacan Chapter upang ipahayag ang kanilang pagnanais na mapalitan na si PD Dolina. Maging ang League of Provinces of the Philippines ay nagpahayag na ng kanilang suporta sa aming pakikipaglaban para sa karapatan ng lalawigan na pumili ng aming Provincial Director, matapos ipagwalang-bahala ng kinauukulan ang mga naunang resolusyon ng aming Sangguniang Panlalawigan at LMP-Bulacan Chapter.

Dahil sa mga bagay na ito, kami na mga namumuno at nananahan sa Lalawigan ng Bulacan, ay nagkaisang lumiham sa inyo, upang hilingin ang inyong pamamagitan na maialis sa Bulacan si PS/Supt Dolina at mapalitan ng isang karapat-dapat at epektibong Provincial Director, na dumaan sa prosesong itinakda ng batas at nakatitiyak na makakatuwang ng Lalawigan sa mga gawaing pang-kapayapaan at pang-kaayusan.

Nagtitiwala po kami, Mahal na Pangulo, na hindi ninyo ipagkakait ang inyong katugunan sa kahilingang ito, sapagkat batid po namin na kasama namin kayo sa hangarin at adhikain ng mas mapayapa at mas malakas na Republika. Isang matatag na Republikang nagtataguyod sa mga umiiral na batas at nagpapahalaga sa kakayahan at kapangyarihan ng mga lokal na pamahalaan.

Katibayan po ng pagtitiwalang ito ay ang aming lagda bilang pagpapahayag ng lubos na pakikiisa at buong-pusong pagsuporta sa ipinaglalabang karapatan at kapayapaan ng mga Bagong Bulakenyo.

Maraming salamat po, Pangulong Arroyo. Mabuhay po kayo!

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Governor

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Former Governor
Chairman, Southeast Asia Commodities and Food Exchange, Inc.

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Children as teacher-facilitators for peace

ALIBAI Alim plays the "pulala," a native flute, to convey her youthful wish for peace.

EDWIN FERNANDEZ

By Edwin O. Fernandez
Midsayap, North Cotabato

FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD ALIBAI ALim is not your typical teenager clutching a mobile phone and hooked into Internet surfing.

Her life in the remote, poor village of Kudarangan has been a quest for survival. Her family lives in what peace advocates call a conflict zone where people, for years, have been longing for genuine—even inner—peace.

"*Rido*" (feuds involving families or clans) and clashes between government forces and Moro rebels have disrupted Alibai's life and those of hundreds of other children in Kudarangan in many instances. Leaving their homes in haste in the middle of the night has been recurring incidents and these seem already normal to them.

"Often, I get separated from my family in the dark of the night to flee from the armed conflict," Alibai said. "I just told myself that I should not be afraid because I will find my family soon."

Her companions—Karutin Sumail, 15, Mohamidin Kesa, 11, and Raesa Gunto, 13—have had similar experiences when Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas and government soldiers swapped bullets and mortar bombs all-night early this year.

Raesa recalled an instance when her family left their home as bursts of gunfire could be heard nearby.

"We fled to a safe area in Datu Piang. When we returned the next day, our house was looted, our small valuables were gone, my chickens and goats were gone," Karutin, an elementary school dropout, said.

Datu Piang in Maguindanao, which is part of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, and Midsayap in North Cotabato are separated by the Rio Grande de Mindanao in the Liguasan marshland.

"Life is very difficult when there is armed conflict," he said. "I want to live a normal life like other children in Poblacion Midsayap."

Hotbed of rebellion

This predominantly Muslim community in North Cotabato is situated along a river and bounded by the Liguasan Marsh, a vast threshold of natural resource considered part of ancestral domain by the Maguindanaon people. It is also a hotbed of rebellion.

In Kudarangan and its surrounding villages, children are growing up in the midst of skirmishes.

Another cause of "un-peace" is family feud. Contrary to the usual perception, this type of conflict is not rooted in religion or military incursion.

"We get along well with Christians, there are no problems. It's often the clan wars between and among families in the community that cause the conflict," Alibai said.

The *rido* is the practice of avenging a supposed wrong done to one's family and can go on for up to six generations. "Once life has been taken, the taker must pay it with his own life or his family's," a Muslim scholar named Datu Ambil said of the *rido*.

The moment fighting erupts between and among families, everyone else in the community has to leave to be spared from stray bullets. Recurring evacuation has forced children to stop going to school. Families would run to the river to hide.

Similar experiences

To comfort them, the parents tell their children they also had the same experience growing up. "We don't go to evacuation centers because it's too far away from our home and the marsh, our source of livelihood, so we hide in the river and wait for the gun battle to stop," Alibai said.

Productive activity stops and people, especially children, would be deprived of basic needs.

"My parents cannot afford to send us all to school. We do not have money for our education, " Alibai, the fifth child in a brood of eight, said.

But it is not the end of the world yet for Alibai and children her age in Kudarangan and nearby communities.

In June, Alibai was able to return to school through the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program funded by the US Agency for International Development's Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills (EQuALLS2) Project.

William Potter, chief of party of the project, said the Save The Children (STC) Foundation had been implementing the ALS program.

"The project aims to provide 100,000 out-of-school youth in the ARMM, Regions 9 and 12 with relevant learning and life skills training, with at least 4,000 targeted to engage gainful livelihood activities by the end of the project in 2011," Potter added.

Alibai now dreams of becoming a teacher someday, not only to help her parents but also to teach other children in their community.

"We lack teachers in our community as teachers from other areas are afraid to come," she said.

PeaceSpace

The opportunity for Alibai to teach other children came in early with the PeaceSpace, an innovative program of the STC Foundation which provides venue for children to participate in community development and peace-building measures through the arts.

Now called children facilitators, Alibai joined 36 other aspiring teachers aged 10-18 years to share experiences and learn creative ways to promote healthy dialogue and understanding among the children.

A PeaceSpace creative workshop was conducted on Sept. 5-8 by Mindanao musician and renowned artist Waway Saway.

"There is hope for us, there is hope for Mindanao," Waway told the participants whose childhood dreams have almost drifted away by the sporadic clashes.

He and his team led the creative workshop for children coming from the *rido*-affected areas of Barangay Lumupogs, Damatilan, Sambulawan, Kudarangan and Macasandeg, and Sitio Guntong, all in the western part of Midsayap.

The workshop used the principle of arts in managing conflict, noting how tapping children to participate in the community process through creative means could "synergize" peace.

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Gov't taps schools for IT programs

BAGUIO CITY—THREE UNIVERSITIES, INCLUDING A Baguio institution, have been appointed to a technical working group tasked with pursuing President Macapagal-Arroyo's information technology agenda for education.

The University of the Cordilleras (formerly the Baguio Colleges Foundation) joins the University of the Philippines in Diliman and the Ateneo de Manila University in formulating curricula that harness the country's growing IT labor force, according to a memorandum issued this week by the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd).

CHEd order

CHEd Special Order No. 72 appointed professors Nancy Flores (UC), Norbert Que (UP) and Fabian Dayrit (AdMU) to review and redirect Ms Arroyo's graduate school scholarship program.

The program hopes to build up the teaching capacity of government educators who handle mathematics, engineering and IT courses.

Their task, however, would not touch controversial education projects such as the Department of Education's Cyber Education program, said Adam Borja, UC spokesperson.

Smarting from the scandal surrounding a National Broadband Network (NBN) project, Ms Arroyo suspended the P26.4-billion Internet-based project crafted by Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, which proposed to feed online or televised lectures to students around the country by satellite.

IT jobs

Borja said the CHEd memorandum orders the schools to enhance Ms Arroyo's science and engineering graduate scholarships to promote courses that lead to IT jobs here and abroad.

The UC was selected for the group because of its ongoing IT programs.

Ramon Santiago, CHEd education specialist for the Cordillera, described UC at a press conference as a "center of excellence" in cyber education because of its pilot curriculum projects.

The UC has been testing a course designed by business outsourcing giant Sitel. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

MEMORIAL EPHRAIM AGUILAR/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

To commemorate the first anniversary of Supertyphoon "Milenyo" on Thursday, a cross was installed inside the Aquinas University campus in Legazpi City, where Mass was celebrated in honor of those who died in Milenyo and another supertyphoon, "Reming."

Gunmen burn 5 houses in N. Cotabato

KIDAPAWAN CITY—HOODED armed men torched five houses, including a warehouse of defeated vice mayoral candidate Agustos Paredes of Banisilan, North Cotabato, police said yesterday.

Senior Insp. Samuel Cadungon, Banisilan police chief, said the attack occurred Wednesday night in Barangay Balindong, a few hours after Jimsard Macasarte, the elder brother of Banisilan Vice Mayor Jennifer Macasarte-Macalincag, was killed by unidentified persons.

But he said they were still trying to determine if the two attacks were related.

Cadungon said witnesses told police that the masked men barged into the Paredes warehouse and ordered the occupants to leave the place as they were torching the structure.

Before fleeing, the perpetrators also razed five more houses.

Meanwhile, the son of one of the victims of Monday's fire here died on Friday of suspected pneumonia.

Allan Otida, whose house was among dozens of structures razed in the fire that hit Jose Abad Santos Street, said the lack of a good shelter contributed to his 4-year-old son JR's early death.

He said after the fire, the family set up a makeshift shelter near their former house while waiting for the relocation assistance offered by the city government.

He said the family literally slept on the ground.

In Davao City, fire investigators said Friday's two-hour fire that gutted several stalls at the Mintal public market here also killed an 8-year-old girl.

SFO3 Dominador Nabor, chief of the Mintal fire station, said Nurhanifa Jumama, 8, was sleeping when the fire broke out.

It was learned that the fire started at the stall owned by Saramina Nampi around 1:39 a.m.

Nabor said they were suspecting arson because of the recovery of a plastic container with petroleum near the public market.

The INQUIRER learned that it was the third fire to hit the Mintal public market since July. *Charlie C. Señase, Orlando B. Dinoy and Dennis Jay C. Santos, Inquirer Mindanao*

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Curtain rises on new Met

By Jerome Aning

TEN YEARS AFTER THE CURTAIN FELL ON THE landmark Metropolitan Theater in Manila, the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) said yesterday it was eyeing the partial opening of the theater to some functions before the year ends.

In a phone interview, NCCA executive director and presidential adviser on culture Cecille Guidote-Alvarez said the agency would push for the completion of rehabilitation work on one of the theater's wings so it could begin hosting events such as art workshops and small presentations.

Architect Richard Bautista of the NCCA's heritage and monument sites office, said production outfits can now use the Met's stage and hall for television shows, small stage shows and location shootings—although they must provide for their own airconditioning system as well as chairs.

Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim had earlier sought a speedier rehabilitation of the Art Deco landmark—fondly called The Met—saying the masses needed a venue for the arts and shows. The Cultural Center of the Philippines, he said, is known to cater mainly to the upper class.

Rehabilitation work began in 2004 as a collaborative effort of NCCA, Manila City Hall and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), which owns the land. President Macapagal-Arroyo gave the project P50 million. The work, however, has proceeded slowly, reportedly because of miscommunication between City Hall and the restoration experts.

Alvarez said NCCA was confident Lim would respect the need to preserve the integrity and heritage value of the Met. "We have a very good working relationship with Mayor Lim; this means well for the cultural life of the city and the country."

Bautista, NCCA's pointman in the restoration, said they had spent P10 million to repair the leaking roof and fix the stage. Another P16 million was spent in completing the repairs on the stage as well as part of the lobby. The electric, sanitation, plumbing, fire and other mechanical systems have been restored, he said.

Alvarez said the remaining P18 million would be given to City Hall to oversee the remaining rehab work.

Alvarez said "much, much more money" would be needed to restore the Met to its old glory.

The Art Deco building, designed in 1931 by architect Juan Arellano, was badly damaged during World War II. It was rebuilt in 1978 by former first lady Imelda Marcos but its condition deteriorated in the '90s. The Met closed down in 1996 amid a dispute between City Hall and GSIS over its ownership and management. This differences were settled in 2004.

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CAREER EXECUTIVE SERVICE BOARD
Diliman, Quezon City 1127
Isang Karangalan ang Maglingkod sa Bayan

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Career Executive Service Board announces the appointment by Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to Career Executive Service Officer (CESO) Rank of the following officials:

	NAME	AGENCY	CESO RANK
1.	Emma B. Barrera	CSC	V
2.	Myrna V. Macatangay	CSC	IV
3.	Erlinda G. Magalong	CSC	V
4.	Hermelino M. Pilola	CSC	V
5.	Ofelia S. Salvador	CSC	V
6.	Adams D. Torres	CSC	IV
7.	Leopoldo Roberto W. Valderosa Jr.	CSC	V
8.	Esmeralda A. Ladra	COMELEC	IV
9.	Ferdinand T. Rafanan	COMELEC	III
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11.	Tomas S. Valera	COMELEC	V
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13.	Roland L. Cortez	DOH	IV
14.	Ma. Lourdes K. Otayza	DOH	V
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16.	Subair S. Diron	DPWH	III
17.	Don F. Donaldo	DPWH	VI
18.	Patrick B. Gatan	DPWH	III
19.	Isabelo V. Mascardo	DPWH	VI
20.	Philip F. Menez	DPWH	III
21.	Jose C. Ong	DPWH	IV
22.	Faustino N. Sta. Maria	DPWH	IV
23.	Danilo E. Versola	DPWH	VI
24.	Rudiger G. Falcis II	OMBUDSMAN	III
25.	Petronila V. de Castro	OP	V
26.	Jose Ma. Antonio B. Tuaño	HOR	II
27.	Ma. Esperanza M. Espino	BCDA	III
28.	Hedda Lourdes Y. Rulona	BCDA	V
29.	Alex T. Solomon	BCDA	III
30.	Romualdo T. Aldecoa Jr.	BSP	IV
31.	Divina S. Caballero	BSP	IV
32.	Arturo C. Manuel	BSP	IV
33.	Edna C. Villa	BSP	IV
34.	Juan D. de Zuniga Jr.	BSP	II
35.	Emarie A. Mondejar	DAP	VI
36.	Carlos A. Sayco Jr	DAP	IV
37.	Socorro D. Angsinco	DBP	VI
38.	Jesusa A. Balingao	DBP	V
39.	Jose V. Barilea Jr.	DBP	VI
40.	Hernilo R. Esguerra	DBP	VI
41.	Amanda S. Guiam	DBP	V
42.	Paul D. Lazaro	DBP	V
43.	Rosalina DL. P. Magat	DBP	IV
44.	Eduardo T. Mendoza	DBP	V
45.	Herminia R. Mendoza	DBP	IV
46.	Ame Cris C. Toledo	DBP	VI
47.	Jomini M. Venago	DBP	V
48.	Annabella T. Vergara	DBP	VI
49.	Minerva M. Virtucio	DBP	V
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51.	Elsie J. Lising	GSIS	V
52.	Samuel M. Ocampo	GSIS	V
53.	Jesusa Ruby A. Teruel	GSIS	V
54.	Rafael Odes M. Abaño III	HDMF	IV
55.	Melba Flor M. Badilla	HDMF	V
56.	Cynthia A. Hansen	HDMF	V
57.	Margie A. Jorillo	HDMF	IV
58.	Delia D. Robles	HDMF	V
59.	Ma. Belen S. Fabella	HGC	V
60.	Rosemarie N. Principe	HGC	VI
61.	Dolora N. Nepomuceno	LLDA	IV
62.	Ramon V. Albano	LBP	V
63.	Allan R. Bisnar	LBP	VI
64.	Vivian P. Bisnar	LBP	VI
65.	Paterno C. Cabredo	LBP	VI
66.	Juan A. Calisin Jr.	LBP	V
67.	Rosario D. Cambronero	LBP	VI
68.	Rossana S. Coronel	LBP	VI
69.	Prudencio J. Llegado	LBP	VI
70.	Edna S. Famorca	LBP	III
71.	Gabriel M. Jayme	LBP	IV
72.	Nomerlito A. Juatchon	LBP	VI
73.	Milo L. Justiniano	LBP	VI
74.	Ma. Teresita V. Leido	LBP	VI
75.	Cesar G. Magallanes	LBP	VI
76.	Delma P. Manila	LBP	V
77.	Filipina B. Monje	LBP	V
78.	Emma L. Orubillo	LBP	VI
79.	Joel M. Ranara	LBP	VI
80.	Eduardo N. Reyes Jr.	LBP	VI
81.	Fidel L. Uy	LBP	V
82	Alfredo B. Espino	LBP	V
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84.	Enrique O. Gita	LBP	V
85.	Manolo A. Kagahastian	LBP	V
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92.	Milagros A. Arcinue	NHMFC	VI
93.	Emilie A. Meneses	NHMFC	V
94.	Ma. Bernarda L. Trinidad	NHMFC	VI
95.	Emmanuel D. Abellanosa	NAPOCOR	V
96.	Ma. Venice A. Amistoso	NAPOCOR	V
97.	Paterno C. Banayat	NAPOCOR	V
98.	Reynaldo F. Bongao	NAPOCOR	V
99.	Emilia A. Canar	NAPOCOR	V
100.	Ernesto M. Daluz	NAPOCOR	V
101.	Josefina C. Hidalgo	NAPOCOR	V
102.	Antonio N. Licup Jr.	NAPOCOR	V
103.	Mauro L. Marcelo Jr.	NAPOCOR	V
104.	Catherine J. Pablo	NAPOCOR	V
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109.	Romualdo V. Quinones	PCSO	V
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114.	Crescencio V. Deligero Jr.	PCIC	V
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125	Ruben John A. Basa	PHIC	V
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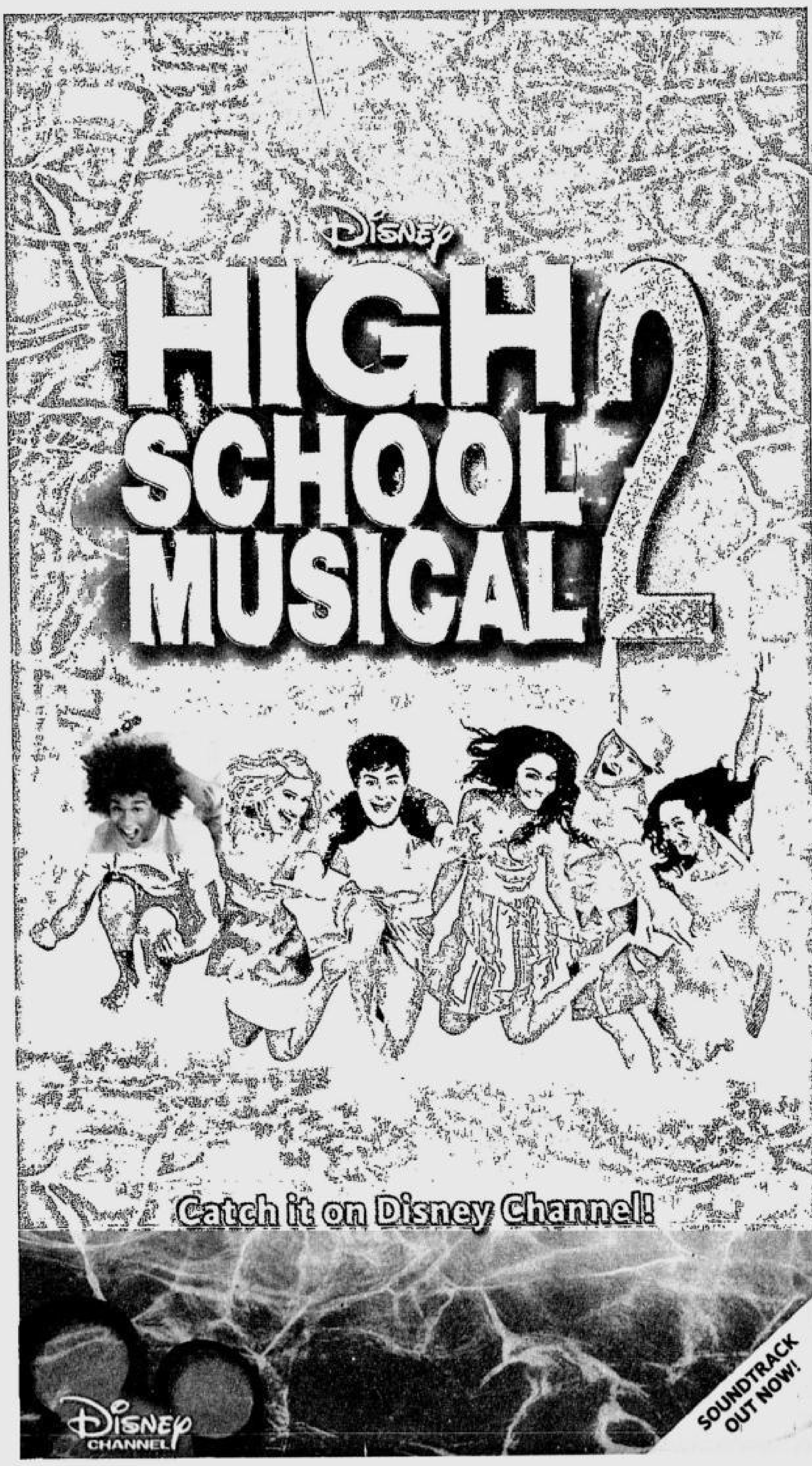
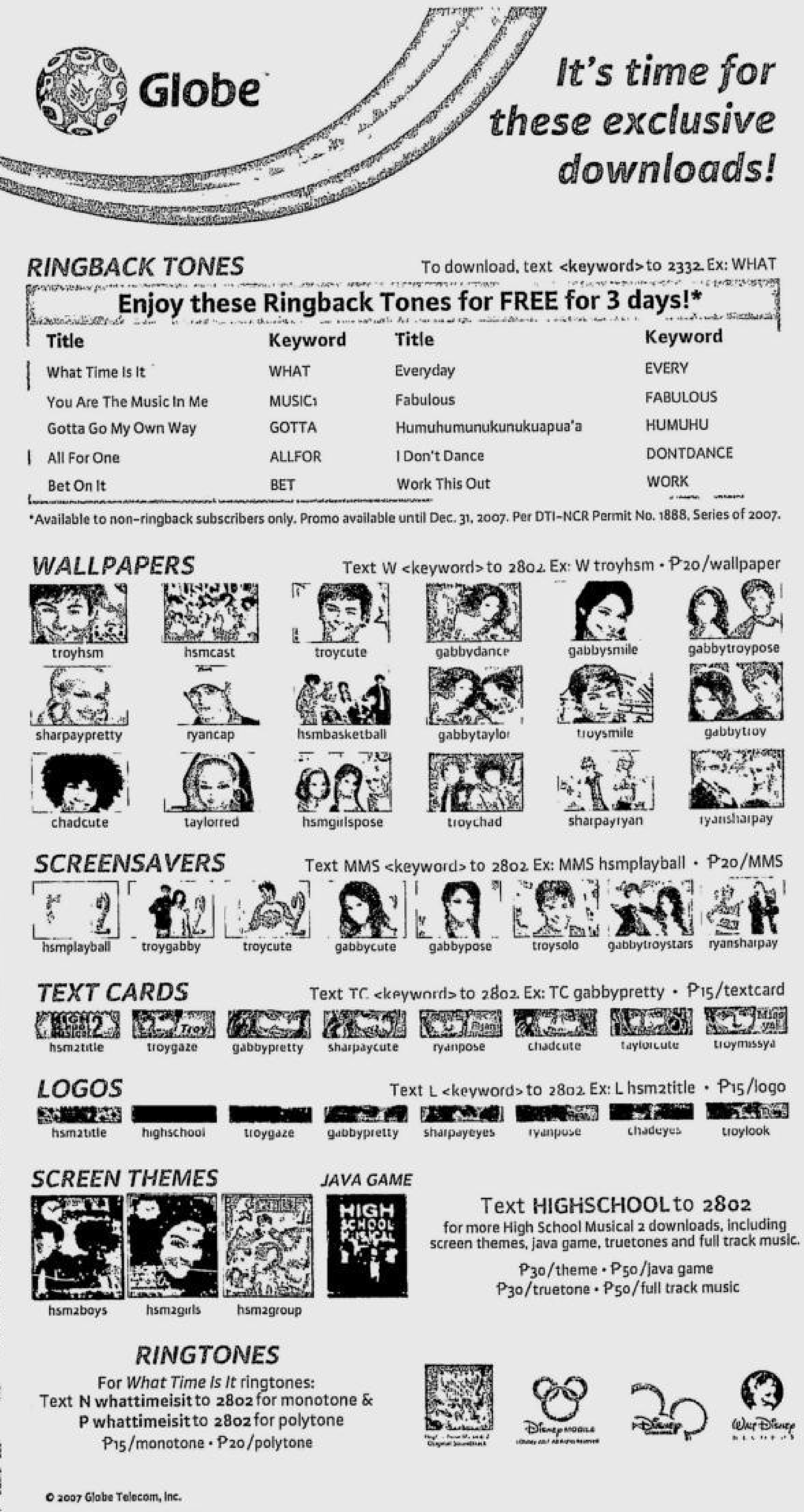
144.	Reynaldo H. Mendoza	TLRC	V
145	Chita C. Jalandoni	LIVECOR	V

The above-said officials are advised to contact the CESB for the details of their appointment

(Sgd.) MA. ANTHONETTE VELASCO-ALLONES
Executive Director

30 September 2007





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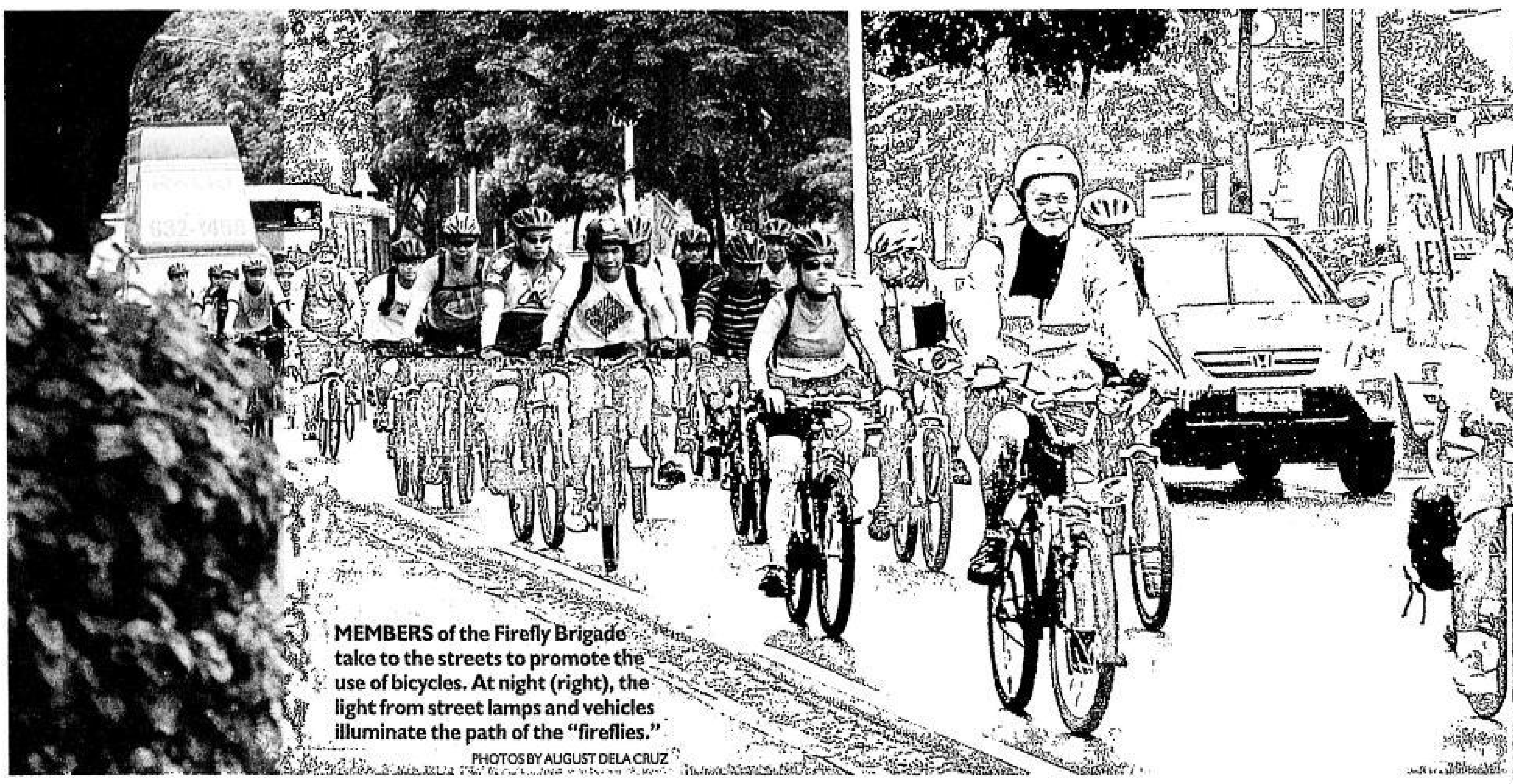


MEMBERS of the Firefly Brigade take to the streets to promote the use of bicycles. At night (right), the light from street lamps and vehicles illuminate the path of the "fireflies."

PHOTOS BY AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Rain fails to dampen bikers' mood on World Car-Free Day

By Jeannette Andrade

A LITTLE RAIN WON'T STOP US.

With this battle cry, some 30 members of the Firefly Brigade—a group of environmentalists pushing for bicycles as the primary mode of transportation to clean up the air—commemorated World Car-Free Day in Quezon City on Sept. 22 despite a light downpour.

World Car-Free Day is an annual environmental event organized in the 1970s amid the oil crisis. Every Sept. 22, people all over the world organize events that show what life would be like without motorized vehicles.

Rosar Crisostomo, a professor of the Ateneo de Manila University who is a member of the brigade, told the INQUIRER that they also want to show to everyone that riding a bike is a very good way of going around the city.

So despite the rainy weather which lasted the entire day and the curious stares they got from motorists on Edsa, the "fireflies" went on a 25-km bikathon which took them around the metropolis.

From the Bike City shop in Cubao, the brigade members cruised on P. Tuazon Street, Edsa, Connecticut Street, Ortigas Avenue, N. Domingo Street, Doña Hemady Street, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Tomas Morato Avenue, E. Lopez Street, Quezon Avenue, North Avenue, Agham Road, East Avenue, V. Luna Road, Kalayaan Avenue and Ermin Garcia Street.

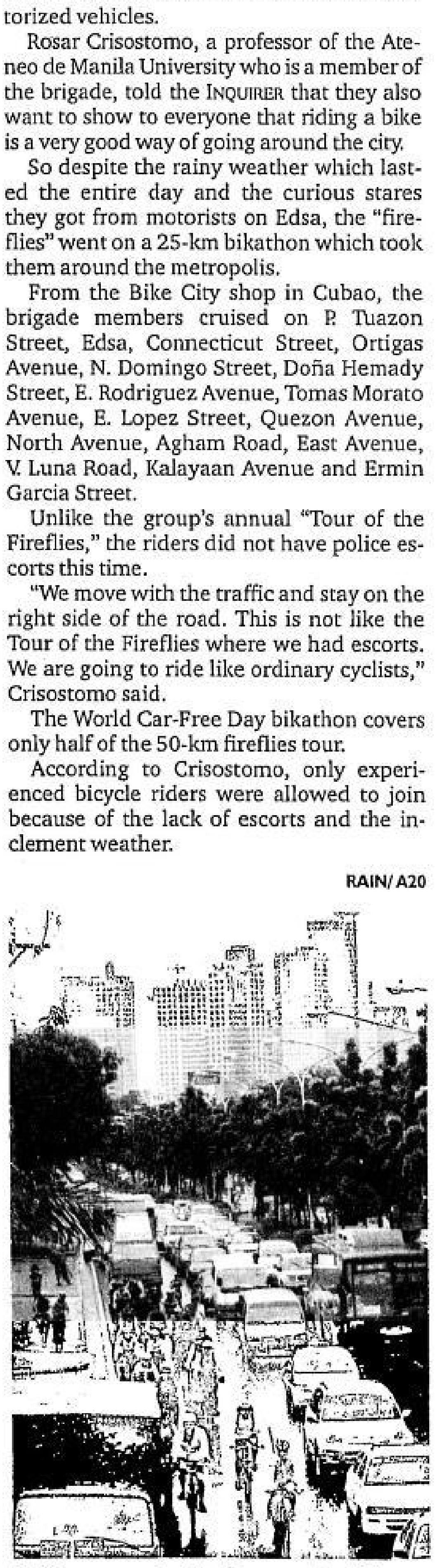
Unlike the group's annual "Tour of the Fireflies," the riders did not have police escorts this time.

"We move with the traffic and stay on the right side of the road. This is not like the Tour of the Fireflies where we had escorts. We are going to ride like ordinary cyclists," Crisostomo said.

The World Car-Free Day bikathon covers only half of the 50-km fireflies tour.

According to Crisostomo, only experienced bicycle riders were allowed to join because of the lack of escorts and the inclement weather.

RAIN/ A20



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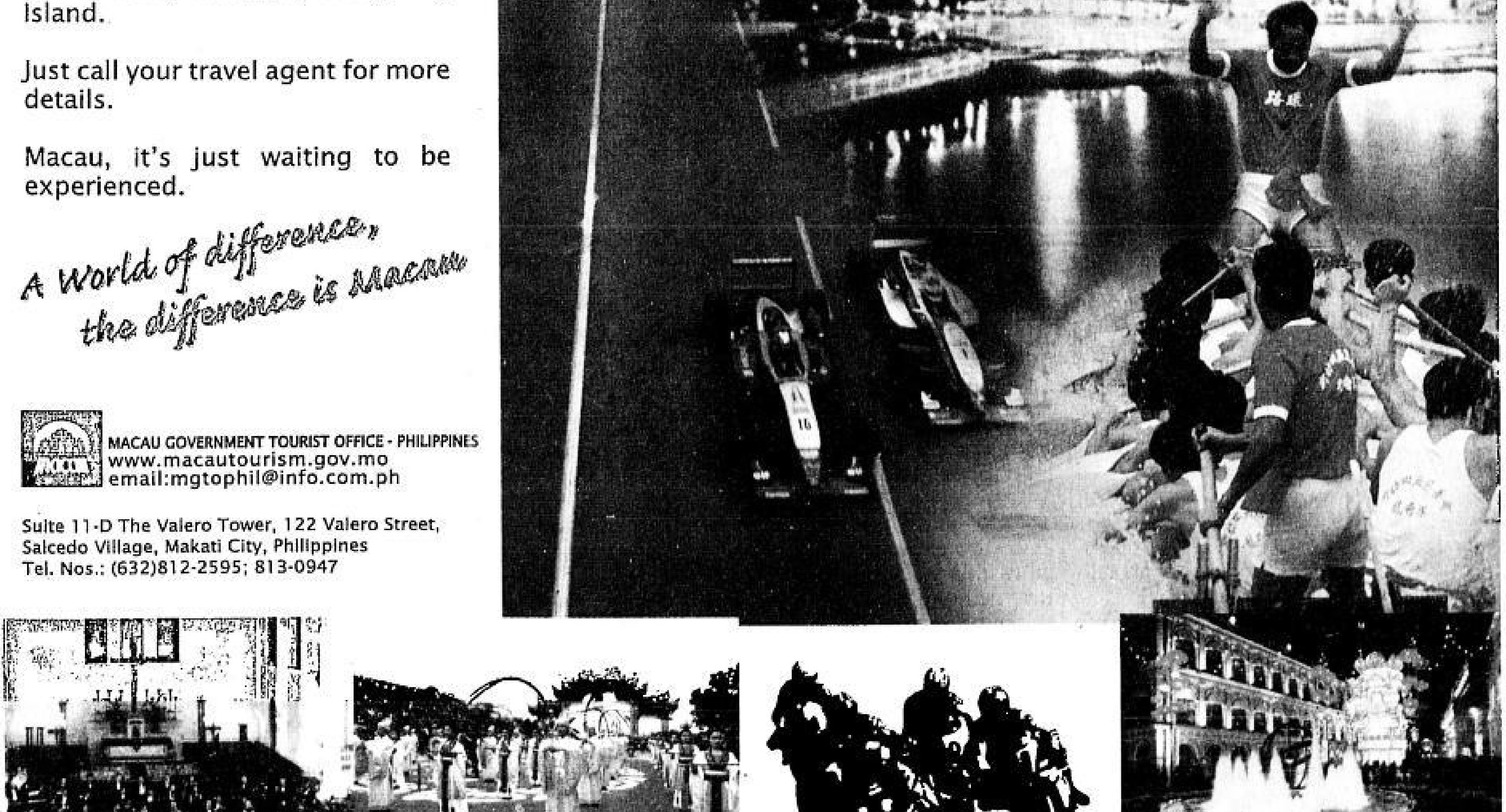


SANCTUARY FOR 9 HOURS

Temporary home provides shelter, sense of family to street children

By DJ Yap

KAREN NEVER KNEW THE meaning of home until she set foot in the Open Day Center (ODC) run by the Virlanie Foundation.

Having known only life in the streets and under the bridges of Manila, the strong willed 5-year-old girl was unprepared for this welcome environment in the heart of Quiapo and unwilling to leave the sanctuary it suddenly offered her.

But the center is open only from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., after which the center's staff of six retires from the task of providing street children like Karen a place to eat, bathe, and perhaps escape momentarily, the scary world outside.

Thus when the clock struck five, Karen would not budge from her seat.

She shook her head twice and squared her shoulders, determined not to leave what had served as her home for eight hours that day. "Can I stay?" she asked, leaving the social worker on duty not a little heartbroken.

Finally, her big brother grabbed Karen's arm and together, as the sun set, they strolled toward whatever nook or cranny of Quezon Bridge was available to spend the night. We can always come back tomorrow, he told her.

A project of Virlanie Foundation and funded by Amade, the ODC is a unique facility where young persons living in the streets may take refuge during the day but must leave at night.

The rationale behind it, said Virlanie's deputy executive director, Arlyne Fernandez, is to provide street children with a comforting environment away from vice and crime, and to prepare them for the time when they find a home and have a family of their own.

"The truth is we hope we don't have centers like this because that would mean no more street children. But as things stand, it seems impossible," she added.

In an interview at the Virlanie head office in Makati City, Fernandez made clear that the institution does not condone children allowed to roam the streets. "But the children are out there anyway. This is our first step to let them experience a home atmosphere," she said.

"They need to be in a safe place. The street is not a good place for children, and they have to experience home life so they'll get used to it when we find a home for them," Fernandez stressed.

The center, housed in a two-story building on Arlegui Street not too far away from Malacañang, does not provide free food, but instead encourages the families of the children to cook their own food in the kitchen.

The staff is composed of three social workers, a teacher, a nurse and a "house parent," who oversees the children's activities. Fernandez said an authority figure is important for kids in the center.

Volunteers are welcome, said May Laurent, who works as a team leader in the facility. "We're looking for those who can train the kids in carpentry, sports, arts and crafts, etc."

In the facility, there is a television set, an activity area for tutorials and workshops, and a toilet and bath where the young visitors may wash themselves.

"At first no soap was provided, so we asked them to bring their own. But no one did and many of them had skin diseases or wounds, so we decided to make soap available," said Lauren.

The rest of the time is devoted to tutorials on various topics from the 3Rs to personal hygiene, and learning sessions on arts and crafts, or for older teens, adolescent sexuality and reproductive health.

Laurent said hygiene is usually the first thing their young wards learn in the center.

With a pained laugh, she recalled one little boy, who, not knowing how to use the toilet, did his thing right on the floor of the activity area. "He and his sibling live under the bridge where they do their toilet activities anywhere. These little things, we have to teach them," she said.

Apart from the ODC, Virlanie actually operates 12 residential homes providing food, shelter and education for more than 1,000 disadvantaged children in the cities of Makati and Manila and in Batangas and Cavite provinces.

Since the inauguration of the facility in June, Fernandez said an average of 70 to 100 street children have begun to frequent the place every day, though not all of them at the same time.

Often coming in groups of five to eight, more boys than girls visit, Laurent said. They come from Manila's depressed communities in Divisoria, Avenida, Carriedo, Basan, Paco, Carriedo, P. Casal and Plaza Miranda.

Laurent said working in Virlanie for four years did not prepare her for the images of extreme poverty and squalor that the center's visitors face every day of their lives.

She remembered three siblings: Anna, 10; Michael, 6; and Gabriel, 3; whose parents are both in jail for petty offenses.

"I visited them once in their shanty under the bridge. The roof was so low you could hardly stand inside the shanty. There were overhanging electric wires, so any wrong move was dangerous," she said.

Laurent continued: "I felt so scared, but of course I did not show them I was. Yet they were so happy to see me. It seemed as though living there had become so natural for them."

After seeing their situation, Virlanie took in the siblings and arranged for their accommodation to the temporary homes.

Anna was sent to the Drop-In Center, Michael to the Marco Polo Home, while Gabriel was taken in by an aunt, The three are now doing fine, Laurent added.

"I remember the first time they visited the center. They are good, well-behaved kids. But they were obviously very hungry. They were always hungry," she noted.

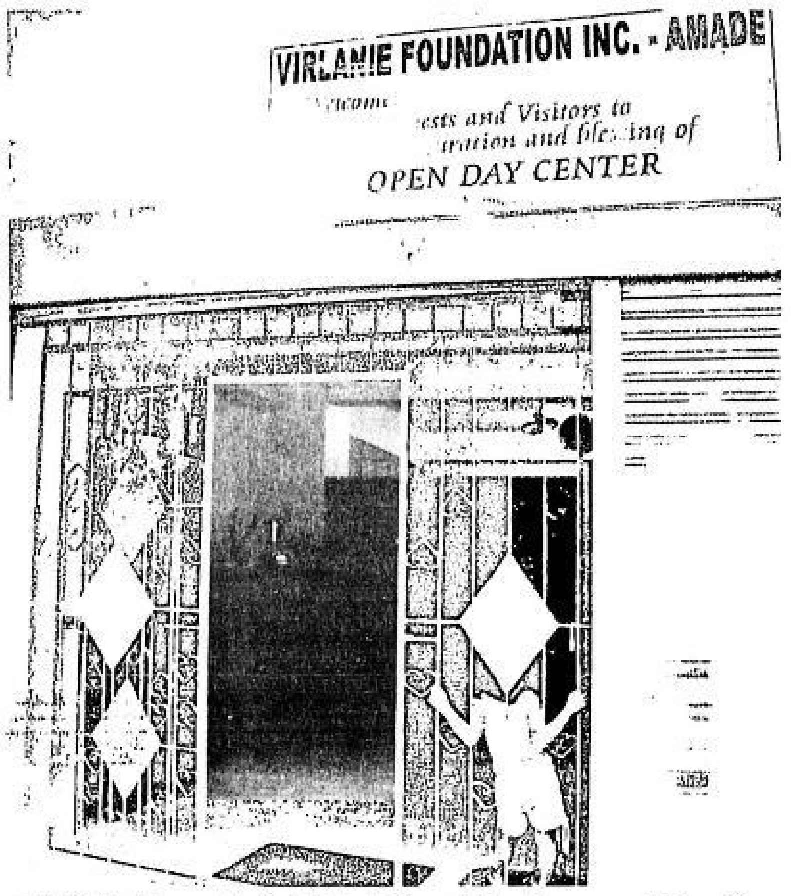
Which is why, despite the policy of not giving the street children food so they do not become dependent on the center, Laurent made an exception for the three. "I served them the food we had left over. In secret, of course."

"As a social worker, I'm supposed to have an air of detachment dealing with these children. But every now and then, you can't help but feel for them," she confessed.

(The children's names were changed to protect their identities.)

STREET CHILDREN learn about the 3Rs, among other things, at the Open Day Center in Quiapo, Manila.

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS



THE CENTER, run by the Virlanie Foundation, is open only from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

THE FACILITY'S temporary residents crowd around a television set.

Lim eyes ecozone in South Harbor

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA GOVERNMENT YESTERday announced its plans to establish a special economic zone in the city to attract more investors.

According to Mayor Alfredo Lim, he wants to turn the stretch of Bonifacio Drive up to Del Pan Street in South Harbor, Port Area, into a strip full of high-rise condominiums and business establishments.

"The place is ideal for the plan, considering the accessibility of the Intramuros golf course in the area where businessmen may unwind or discuss business while engaging in their favorite sport," he said.

Those wishing to jog, walk or simply enjoy the sunset, he added, would only have to go to the nearby Roxas Boulevard which is one of Manila's tourist attractions.

Lim added that putting up new businesses in the city would also create job opportunities for thousands of residents.

The mayor said he already ordered Ric de Guzman, his chief of staff, and city administrator Jesus Marzan to coordinate with the proper agencies to iron out the mechanics of the planned financial district.

Citing what he saw in Chongqing, Shanghai, and Beijing during his recent official visit to China, Lim said he sees no reason why Manila cannot be as progressive as these places.

Rain fails to dampen bikers' mood …

From page A19

"People who join this ride are used to riding. They are experienced riders. We do not allow children to participate in this kind of activity," he said.

As they rode around the metropolis, the fireflies handed out flyers that read: "Bike to work, bike to school, bike to play, bike today! Join the World Car-Free Day! Put some fun between your legs and take a break from high oil prices, traffic jams, and dirty air! On Saturday, Sept. 22, bicycles take to the streets of Metro Manila to show what roads could be without the noise and bustle of cars!"

There were also flyers that encouraged the public to "Help clean our city's air!" and suggested bike riding as an alternative, pointing out that "a third of trips taken in the city are shorter than two kilometers and add to both traffic congestion and pollution."

"Use our cars less. Save money, energy and time to avoid stress and cause less pollution!" other flyers said.

Ernesto San Juan, Araneta Center chief security officer, told the INQUIRER that they have always accommodated bicycle riders in the area as long as they wear the basic bicycle uniform complete with safety gadgets and follow traffic rules and regulations.

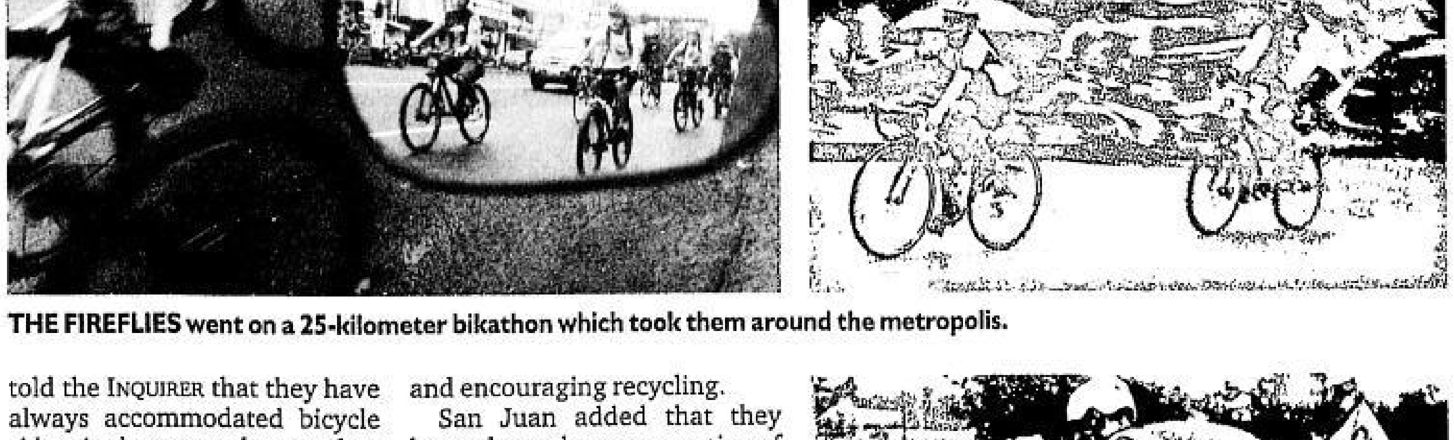
"We have provided areas in Araneta Center where bikers who are properly dressed can bike on Time Square and Center avenues," San Juan said, adding that bike racks have also been installed in those areas.

Allowing bicycle riders in the vicinity, he said, is part of their environment-friendly measures, including planting trees and encouraging recycling.

San Juan added that they have always been supportive of the activities of the Firefly Brigade.

The car-free day tour ended at the Marikina Shoe Expo in Cubao, a suitable finish line. Marikina was the first which took steps to become a bike-friendly city, providing bicycle lanes, routes and bicycle racks for its constituents.

Next year, the brigade hopes to expand its advocacy beyond Metro Manila to other cities nationwide through its annual Tour of the Fireflies.



THE FIREFLIES went on a 25-kilometer bikathon which took them around the metropolis.

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ROY SEÑERES, September 2007

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor **Gerry Lirio**

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

'KUTTIN' KANDI' SUPPORTS GABRIELA'S FIGHT AGAINST US WAR ON TERROR

WOMEN POWER. Candice Custodio-Tan (third from left) throws in her lot with her colleagues in militant group Gabriela in the fight against exploitation of women in the Philippines.

JOAN BONDOC

Fil-Am hip-hop deejay is an activist

By TJ Burgonio

WHEN SHE FLEW TO MANILA IN EARLY August, Fil-Am Candice Custodio-Tan hardly drew any attention from the celebrity-crazy press.

As quietly as she slipped into the country, Tan accomplished her mission—to document the struggles of women in southern Philippines—without the usual frenzy that greeted her gigs in the United States.

In her three-day "exposure," she mingled, broke bread, and lived with the people in a poor community in the middle of a vast banana plantation in Davao City.

Women's plight

Through all this, not many knew who she really is, apart from the fact that she is a volunteer of the Gabriela Network.

In the US, where she was born, Tan is better known as DJ Kuttin Kandi, a hip-hop disc jockey who had been wowing crowds in DJ events, shows, competitions and awards for over 10 years now.

Here's one person who has managed to keep a healthy blend of hip-hop and activism.

Tan, 31, was here to attend the 10th Women's International Solidarity Affair in the Philippines (Wisap) from Aug. 3 to 5. And part of it was an exposure trip to communities to know the plight of Filipino women.

"I've seen the beauty of this homeland and the struggle of our people who don't take their country for granted," she said, summing up her impressions of her first trip to her parents' homeland.

DJ champion

"These people are so much part of the Philippines despite the poverty, the lack of water, lack of health care, lack of education."

Candice Anne Lorraine was born in Queens, New York to Loren Custodio from Cavite and Cynthia Roldan from Camarines Sur.

She shared her father's passion for music and grew up watching him deejay at parties. In high school, she hung out with male classmates, who are also DJs, and learned to deejay by spinning turntables at friends' parties.

She started deejaying at 16. After her mother bought her a turntable when she turned 18, she joined the famed DJ band 5th Platoon, a DJ team champion, and began competing in over 20 competitions.

In 1998, she emerged as the NY Source Magazine DJ champion, and was a finalist at USA DMC, a national competition for turntablism. She was the first female DJ to place in the USA DMC. Soon after, they started hiring her to perform throughout the US and elsewhere.

Gabriela exposure

"That's when I said, 'O maybe I shouldn't be studying nursing no more'," she chuckled in an interview, while taking a break from her "brainstorming session" with other delegates at the Sulo Hotel.

She quit college as a second year nursing student to go full-time on deejaying.

The young DJ went on to co-found the female DJ group Anomolies and formed the entertainment company Flip Da Lid Entertainment. She traveled around the world performing with such artists like Bob James, Kool Herc, Jay-Z, among others.

In between, she taught hip-hop/DJ activism class and poetry classes at El Puente's Leadership Center in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, and DJ courses at the DJ school DJ Scratch Academy. She is a writer and a poet too.

But it was through her work as a DJ that she got involved with Gabriela Network in 1997.

Since she didn't have many Filipino friends in New York and she wanted "to seek more of my history," she linked up with Filipino associations, like the Filipino American Human Services Inc.

"Still, I wasn't aware consciously what were the real community issues; what were the struggles of a Fil-Am," she said.

Then a friend, Gabriela Network national chair Dr. Annalisa Enrile, from Los Angeles called to ask her to deejay for Gabriela.

"And I said, who is Gabriela? In New York City, I didn't even know Ninotchka [Rosca] existed, until Annalisa connected me to Ninotchka and told me who she was," she said. "And then I got connected to Ninotchka, that's when all happened."

Trafficking Filipinos

She confessed to being awed by the Filipino novelist and founder of Gabriela Network-USA.

"When I first met her, she told me her life story, how she got her name ... her struggle, being here. I learned so much from her. It inspired me to learn more. Even now at 31, I'm still learning," she said.

Rosca was also in Manila to attend the conference on Filipino women.

With Gabriela, Tan coordinated fundraising campaigns against sex trafficking of Filipino women and children, and educated the youth about hip-hop culture "to inspire them to find themselves."

"It was not just educating the Filipino community, but educating the hip-hop community, and to me, hip-hop community has a great way of bringing solidarity among the black, Latino, Asian, Filipino communities," she said.

Ugnayan volunteers

"So you're getting them into that one community that goes to other communities. The hip-hop communities are there at the show that I'm providing for them ... And they're learning the issue," she added.

These communities, she said, were shocked to learn that Filipino were being trafficked to foreigners, and foreign countries.

But she realized that the "problem wasn't going away" despite her community work. "That's when the organizing part came in. That's when the activism came in. That's when the protesting and rallying came in," she said.

Tan also volunteers with other NGOs such as Ugnayan and United for Peace & Justice, among others.

The activist DJ said she, too, was shocked to see first-hand the harsh realities facing women in Davao City when she flew there in August.

"They're being discriminated against. They're being labeled as terrorists. That's happening as well in the US with the Patriot Act ... If you go there and see these women, and see them with no *tsinelas* (slippers), no food, no water, how can they be terrorists?" she said.

"They're only showing one side. They're acting in a certain way because no one is hearing them. They drink toxic water because they have no good water, and because they're earning $3 a day in the banana plantation, there's not enough money to buy water."

Muslim exposé

In California, where she now lives with her Fil-Am husband, she would use her connections in the hip-hop community to convince the "US-based Muslim communities" to reach out to the communities here.

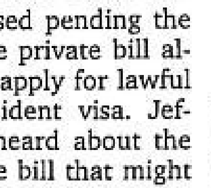
She is also dead-set on exposing the plight of the Muslim women in a documentary about the Philippines.

"I'm working on the documentary and will expose what's going on in the Muslim community. I'm dedicated to that piece because I've experienced it here," she said.

Children of TNT parents

IMFO

Lourdes Santos Tancinco



JEFFREY (NOT HIS REAL name) entered the United States when he was 2-years-old. He entered the US with a B1/B2 visitor's visa together with his parents. Jeffrey has been an honor student since elementary and he has plans of going to a prestigious college after graduating from high school.

When Jeffrey turned 16-years-old, he was not able to get a driver's license and has no social security number. His parents had already fallen out of legal immigration status for the last nine years and they are now facing deportation proceedings. In short, they became "tago ng tago," or TNTs. Jeffrey's parents filed a frivolous application for political asylum and when this was denied, removal/deportation proceedings were initiated against the whole family, including Jeffrey.

As soon as Jeffrey turned 17-years-old, he still did not have any lawful status and his family's removal case is still pending. Jeffrey cannot enter college because of his lack of immigration status.

Dream Act of 2007

The immigration judge soon issued a deportation order against Jeffrey and his parents. Jeffrey was taken into custody by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent and was being processed for deportation. Jeffrey's parents are still at large and may be taken into custody anytime as well.

The case of Jeffrey was brought to the attention of one of the members of the US Congress and a private bill was introduced in June 2007. Jeffrey was released pending the approval of the private bill allowing him to apply for lawful permanent resident visa. Jeffrey has also heard about the pending Senate bill that might also grant him a relief from deportation.

The Senate is scheduled to resume debate anytime on the Department of Defense authorization bill (H.R. 1585). Majority Whip Richard J. Durbin (D-IL) is expected to introduce the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (Dream Act). The Dream Act would facilitate access to college for immigrant students in the US and provide a path to legal status for immigrant youth who were brought to the US as young children and who want to pursue higher education or military service.

1,000 'Jeffreys'

The Dream Act (S. 774 and H.R. 1275) will provide an opportunity to high-achieving young people who were brought to the US as children to earn permanent resident status over many years, if they continue their education in college, join the military, show good moral character, and meet other eligibility requirements.

There are thousands of "Jeffreys" in the US who at a young age were brought to the US by undocumented parents. Most of these children did not make their own decision to go to the US. It was their parents who made the decision to go to the US with the expectation that they be exposed to better opportunities abroad.

The intentions of the parents to bring their children to the US for a better future is a noble one but that intention must be accompanied by appropriate actions of finding ways to legalize their stay in the US. The children's immediate future must be taken as a major factor in making a decision to migrate abroad.

There are an increasing number of children of undocumented aliens who are being deported with their parents. Most of these children have fully integrated themselves into the American way of life. They grew up in the US not even knowing about their lack of immigration status. To deport them in a very abrupt way is a harsh penalty for a decision which was made for them by their parents without their knowledge or participation.

Should the Dream Act be passed thousands of young immigrant who are undocumented will finally be on their pathway to achieving legal status and be spared from possible removal from the US.

(IMFO stands for Immigration Information. Lawyer Tancinco may be reached at 887-7177 or by email to law@tancinco.com).

Taiwan develops missiles able to reach China

TAIPEI, TAIWAN—FACED WITH a threatening military buildup by China, an outgunned Taiwan is quietly proceeding with plans to develop missiles that could strike the mainland, defense and security experts say.

Taiwan this year successfully tested its first cruise missile with that kind of range: One that could send a nearly 900-pound warhead more than 600 miles, to targets as distant as Shanghai, military analysts said.

Some Taiwanese military specialists have argued for decades that Taiwan should develop offensive weapons, including missiles, as a deterrent to the mainland, which has threatened to attack the self-governing island if it moves toward formal independence. The US defense department estimates that China has deployed 900 missiles opposite Taiwan.

Military officials and lawmakers in the governing Democratic Progressive Party of President Chen Shui-bian have confirmed that the cruise missiles were under development. They said these missiles were essential to Taiwan's defense because of China's soaring spending on weapons.

"They want to make mainland China hesitate before launching any attack," said Andrei Chang, a Hong Kong-based expert on the Chinese and Taiwanese militaries and editor in chief of Kanwa Defense Review magazine. "These missiles could not only destroy military targets, but financial and economic targets as well. "They want to create massive panic."

There have also been unconfirmed news reports in Taiwan that the military is developing short-range ballistic missiles. Chen's independence-leaning administration refuses to comment on the existence of such a program.

At a time when Taipei has angered China with a decision to hold a referendum on the island's bid to rejoin the United Nations under the name of Taiwan, the deployment of missiles that could strike the mainland could further increase tensions. The Bush administration has signaled that it opposes Taiwan's developing such weapons. There were reports in the Taiwanese news media this month that the Chen administration, under US pressure, had dropped plans to deploy surface-to-surface missiles on Taiwan's outlying island of Matsu near the coast of China's Fujian province.

Missiles deployed on Matsu would be able to strike targets on the mainland where China has concentrated air, missile and land forces opposite Taiwan.

Beijing this week reacted sharply to the reports. "We sternly warn the Taiwan authorities not to play with fire," Li Weiyi, a spokesperson for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, told a news briefing Wednesday, according to a report by the Xinhua news agency. "Whoever plays with fire will get burned." *NYT*

THE COLLAPSED bridge in Vinh Long province, Mekong delta as seen on Sept. 26. A section of the Japanese-funded bridge under construction collapsed on Wednesday, killing at least 47 workers and injuring about 100 in the country's worst such disaster. REUTERS

Bridge in Vietnam collapses, kills 47

HANOI—AT LEAST 47 PEOPLE DIED when a bridge under construction in the southern Vietnamese province of Can Tho collapsed, a hospital director said Saturday as search efforts continued for six people.

"We found one more dead body of a worker early this morning," said Tran Thanh Quang, director of Military Hospital 121 in Can Tho.

Rescue efforts would continue until all bodies were found, he said.

Part of the 16-kilometer bridge being built across the Hau river to link Can Tho and Vinh Long provinces collapsed early Wednesday in the nation's worst bridge accident.

Rescuers used five cranes and concrete cutters to remove sections of the collapsed bridge which weighed more than 2,000 tons, and several hundred police and military were mobilized.

Police Friday launched an investigation into the accident and results were expected in coming days, according to online paper VNExpress.

A nationwide campaign has been launched to raise money for victims and their families.

Construction of the $300-million Can Tho bridge, which was largely funded by the Japanese government, began in September 2004 and was to have been completed next year. *AFP*

US troops accused of killing women, kids in Baghdad raid

BAGHDAD—AMERICAN FORCES were accused of killing 10 people, including women and children, in a Baghdad raid on Friday as the US military announced a senior al-Qaida leader was killed in an air strike.

The Iraqi government meanwhile Friday firmly rejected a Bosnia-style plan approved by the US Senate to divide Iraq on ethnic and religious lines, saying Iraqis will themselves decide their future.

Iraqi officials said the early-morning US air raid targeted a building in the majority Sunni Al-Saha neighborhood in southwestern Baghdad where families were sleeping.

Bodies were pulled out of the rubble of the building, which was destroyed.

"Ten people were killed and seven wounded when American helicopters attacked Building No 139 at 2 am. We have no idea of the reason for the attack," said an interior ministry official.

There was no immediate comment from the US military.

An official at Baghdad's Al-Yarmuk hospital said 13 people—seven men, two women and four children—were killed and 10 men and a woman were wounded. He said all the casualties were civilians.

The survivors had said their building had been attacked by US helicopters early in the morning, the hospital official said.

A US commander, meanwhile, announced that a senior al-Qaida leader, Abu Usama al-Tunisi, was killed in an air strike on Tuesday southwest of Baghdad in the vicinity of Musayyib.

Brig. Gen. Joseph Anderson described the Tunisian as a close associate and likely successor to Abu Ayyub al-Masri, al-Qaida in Iraq's Egyptian leader.

The US military learned that he was meeting with other al-Qaida members in Iraq southwest of Baghdad in the vicinity of Musayyib on Tuesday.

"United States Air Force F-16 aircraft attacked the target," Anderson told reporters via video linkup from Baghdad. *AFP*

Demand for ethanol could hurt food aid

By Celia W. Dugger

THE SURGE IN DEMAND FOR CORN TO make ethanol could contribute to more hungry people this year. Soaring food prices, driven in part by demand for ethanol, have helped slash the amount of food aid the government can buy to its lowest level in a decade.

The United States, the world's dominant donor, has purchased less than half the amount of food aid this year than it contributed in 2000, according to new data from the Department of Agriculture.

Corn prices have fallen somewhat in recent months, but are still far higher than they were a year ago. Demand for ethanol has also indirectly driven the rising price of soybeans, as land that had been planted with soybeans shifted to corn. And wheat prices have skyrocketed as drought hurt production in Australia, a major producer.

Higher food prices have not only reduced the amount of American food aid for the hungry, but they are also making it harder for the poorest people to buy food for themselves, economists and advocates for the hungry say.

Food aid spending will have to rise just to keep feeding the same number of people. But the appropriations bill for the coming year moving through Congress does not promise any significant increases in the food aid budget.

The impact of rising food prices on food aid is part of a broader debate about the long-term impact on the world's poorest people of using food crops to make ethanol and other biofuels, a strategy that rich countries like the United States hope will eventually reduce dependence on Middle Eastern oil.

Some advocates for the poor say rising food prices could benefit poor farmers in developing countries, providing them with markets and decent prices for their crops.

But others warn that the growing use of food crops to make fuel, especially if stoked by large subsidies in rich countries, could substantially increase food prices and push hundreds of millions more poor people into hunger, especially the landless rural poor and city dwellers.

Production of food crops to make biofuels will also tend to favor growers with plenty of capital and large land holdings, they say, rather than small-scale, impoverished farmers lacking modern grain storage facilities in poor countries afflicted with poor roads. *NYT*

SOYBEANS in a farm field near Morris, Illinois. Rising demand for grain to make fuel, food and livestock feed has helped push the prices of Illinois corn and soybeans up 40 percent and 75 percent respectively. AFP

Kabul suicide attack on Army bus kills 31

KABUL—A SUICIDE BOMBER wearing an Army uniform blew up a bus carrying Afghan soldiers in Kabul on Saturday, killing at least 31 people and wounding many others, the health and defense ministries said.

Most of the dead military personnel were soldiers and officers going to work at the defense ministry but several passers-by were also believed to have been killed, officials and witnesses said.

The insurgent Taliban movement claimed responsibility for the early morning attack, the deadliest in the city since a similar explosion on a police bus in June killed about 35 people.

The force of the explosion blew off the roof and sides of the large bus, which was reduced to mangled metal.

Television pictures showed the bodies of men who appeared to be Afghan National Army soldiers being pulled from the wreckage. Some of the dead were still in their seats. Debris was scattered across a wide area.

"At this time I can tell you that 31, almost all of them military personnel, have been martyred," said Public Health Minister Sayed Mohammad Amin Fatemi.

Seventeen of the wounded were in a critical condition, he said during a visit to the city's main military hospital where many of the casualties were taken.

The defense ministry said at least 27 national Army personnel were killed and 21 others injured.

The suicide attacker, who had been wearing an Army uniform, detonated explosives strapped to his body as he approached the bus, the ministry said in a statement.

The vehicle was attacked in a residential suburb just northwest of the city center. *AFP*

AN AFGHAN boy whose father is missing after a suicide blast weeps in Kabul on Sept. 29. REUTERS

Mexico ex-president investigated for financial abuse

FOX AP

MEXICO CITY—IF FORMER President Vicente Fox thought his retirement would be peaceful at his ranch, swimming in the pool or strolling by the artificial lake and sumptuous gardens, then events this week have proved him wrong.

Congress started an investigation into his personal finances after a former campaign aide charged that Fox had used campaign money to renovate the ranch.

Fox contends that every peso spent on the renovation came from his own pocket, a close adviser, Rob Allyn, said Thursday.

The accusations from Lino Korrodi, the finance chair for Fox's 2000 campaign, with photographs of the former president's relatively luxurious ranch published recently in a magazine, have fueled speculation among politicians about where Fox got the money.

The frenzy has reached a fever pitch in Congress, where members of opposition parties have pushed through a measure to set up a commission to investigate Fox's finances, a move unheard of in Mexico, where former presidents are generally treated with tremendous deference.

"It's important to clear up all these doubts," said one of the prime proponents of the investigation, Victor Leopoldo Valencia de los Santos, a member of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI. "He has provoked this."

The investigation has put Fox on the defensive. This week, he declared he had nothing to hide from investigators.

Questions began to surface about whether Fox had used his position to enrich himself after Quien, a celebrity magazine, published photographs of the newly renovated ranch. It was a ramshackle affair with modest furnishings before he took office.

Fox's ranch is not luxurious compared with the estates of many wealthy and influential Mexicans, but the transformation raised suspicions in a country where power often goes hand in hand with corruption. Other former presidents, such as Jose Lopez Portillo and Carlos Salinas de Gortari, amassed immense fortunes in office, historians say.

Still, Korrodi's broadside against his former friend and boss pushed members of Congress to demand an inquiry. "It is evident he got rich during his six years in office, in a very shameless and cynical way," Korrodi told the newspaper El Universal last week.

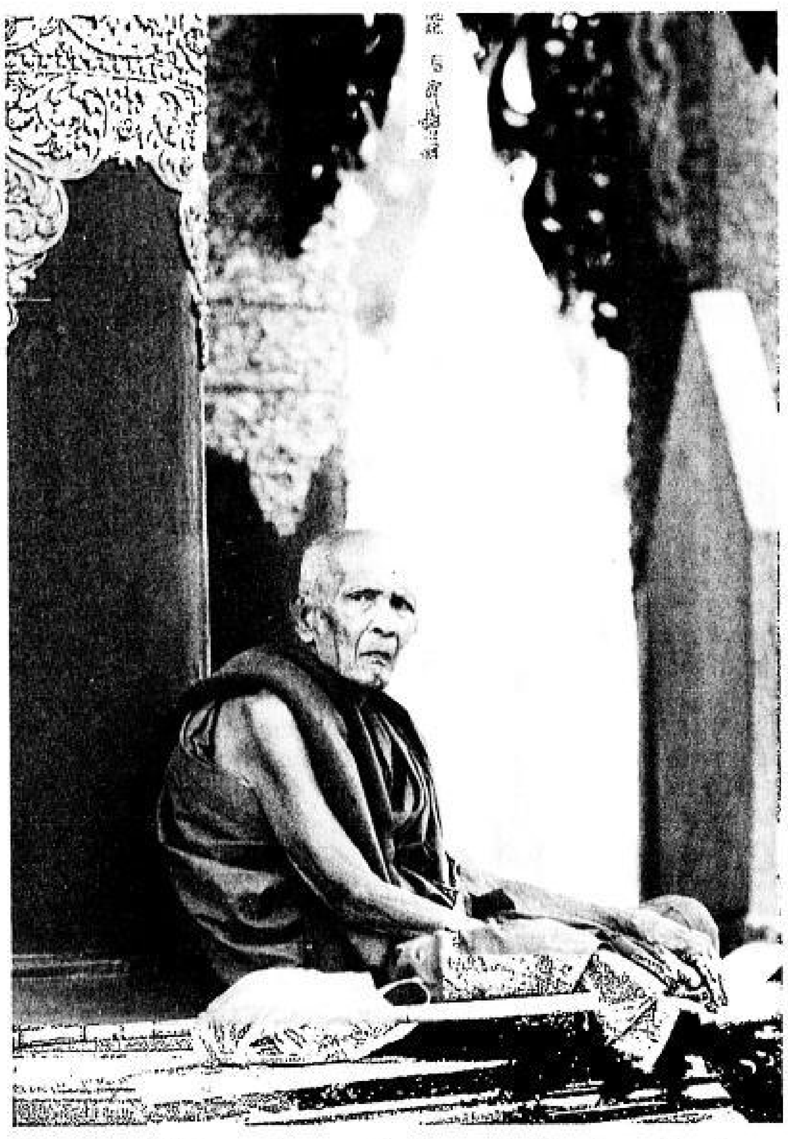
Fox made history in 2000 when he became the first opposition politician to wrest the presidency from the PRI after 71 years of autocratic and corrupt rule. Fox also made many enemies during last year's presidential campaign in the leftist Party of the Democratic Revolution and the former ruling party. Some political analysts have called the investigation revenge.

As president, Fox earned $245,000 a year and since leaving office last December, he has received an annual pension of about $270,000. *NYT*

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Despair as junta strangles protests



AN OLD Buddhist monk passes the time at the Swedagon Pagoda on Dec. 12, 2004. Buddhist monks have been locked in their monasteries as soldiers continue a brutal crackdown on dissent in Burma. AP

RANGOON—RESIDENTS WORRIED THAT PRO-democracy protests could be weakening after soldiers and police in Burma (also known as Myanmar) took control of the streets, firing tear gas and warning shots to scatter demonstrators who ventured out and sealing off Buddhist monasteries.

The streets were quiet early Saturday and monks, who have provided the backbone of recent rallies calling for an end to 45 years of military rule, were locked behind temple gates in the two largest cities, Rangoon (Ynagon) and Mandalay. Additional troops arrived overnight, consolidating the government's control of urban areas.

Internet links have been cut.

"I don't think that we have any more hope to win," said a young woman who took part in a massive demonstration Thursday that was broken up when troops opened fire into a crowd. She was separated from her boyfriend and has not seen him since. "The monks are the ones who give us courage."

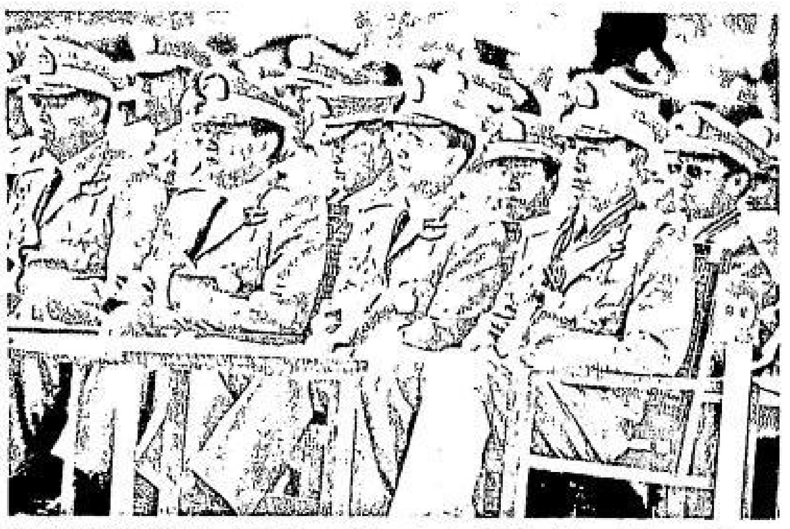
Daily protests drawing tens of thousands of people had grown into the stiffest challenge to the ruling military junta in two decades, a crisis that began more than a month ago when people in the desperately poor nation of 54 million started rallying against a massive fuel price increase. The demonstrations escalated when monks joined in.

The junta, which has a long history of snuffing out dissent, started cracking down Wednesday, when the first of at least 10 deaths was reported, and then let loose on Thursday, shooting protesters and clubbing them with batons.

Small groups of die-hard activists and angry residents have continued to turn out since then, some taunting troops and then scattering into alleyways, soldiers in pursuit.

"Bloodbath again! Bloodbath again!" a Rangoon resident yelled Friday while watching troops break up one march by shooting into the air, firing tear gas and beating people with clubs. Participants in the protests asked that their names not be used, fearing retribution.

The mood in Rangoon was somber Saturday. Soldiers and police were stationed on almost every street corner. Shopping malls, grocery stores and public parks were closed, and only a handful of residents ventured out.



MEMBERS of Burma's ruling military junta during Armed Forces Day celebrations, in this March 27 photo in the new capital of Naypyitaw. AP

"People are living in a state of fear and hate," said one onlooker, who asked not to be named. "A few days ago, everyone was friendly. Now no one wants to talk to strangers."

Hundreds of people have been arrested in the last few days, including Win Mya Mya, an outspoken member of the country's main opposition group, the National League for Democracy, who was taken overnight, according to family members.

Images of bloodied protesters and fleeing crowds have riveted world attention on the escalating crisis, prompting many governments to urge the junta to end the violence. A video broadcast by Japan's Fuji Television Network showed a soldier directly shooting a Japanese cameraman during the crackdown Thursday.

The United States, meanwhile, urged "all civilized nations" to press Burma's leaders to end the crackdown.

"They don't want the world to see what is going on there," White House spokesperson Scott Stanzel said, as soldiers searched hotels for foreign journalists, who have been largely barred from entering the country. *AP*

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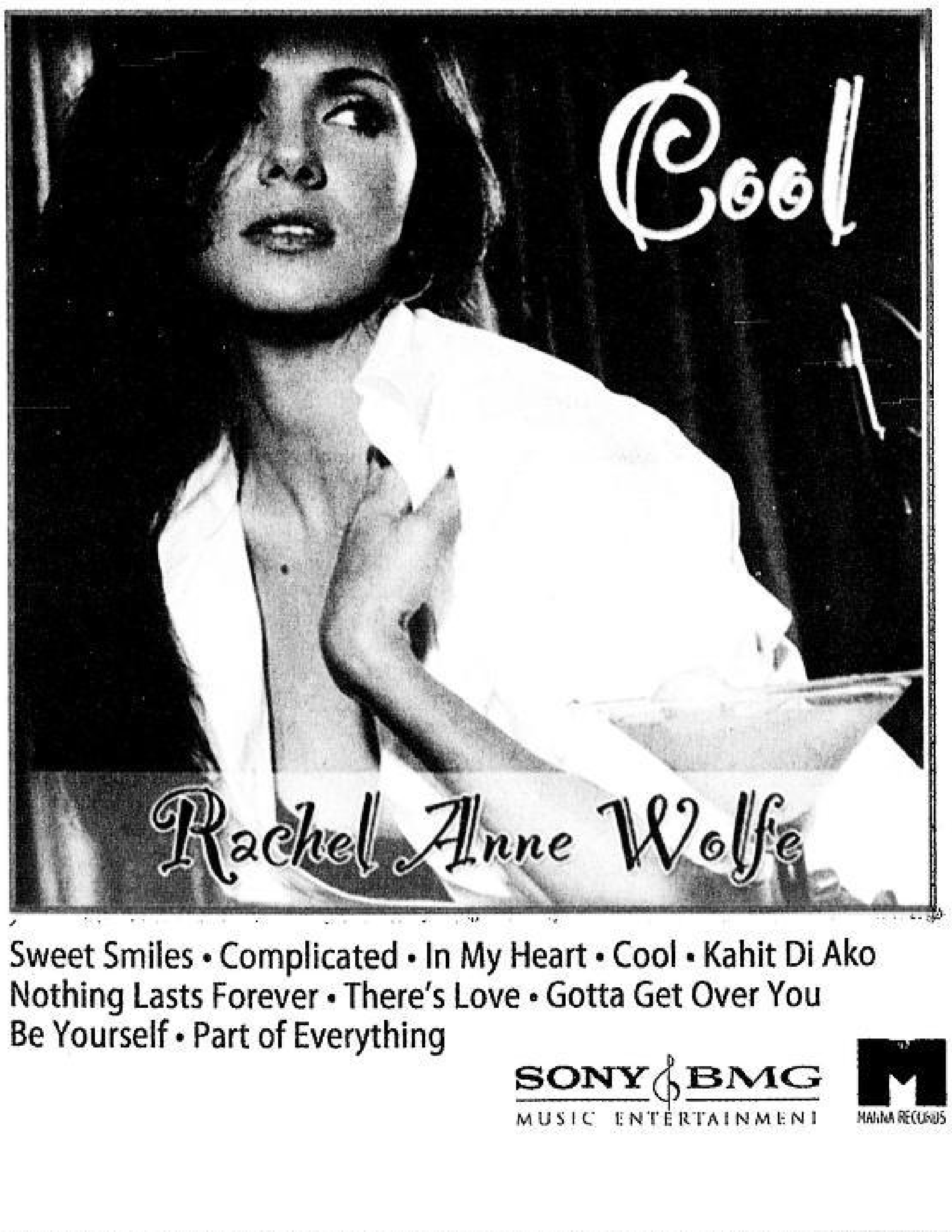

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UN envoy flies into maelstrom

RANGOON—UNITED NATIONS ENVOY Ibrahim Gambari flew to Burma on Saturday carrying worldwide hopes he can persuade its ruling generals to use negotiations instead of guns to end mass protests against 45 years of military rule.

"He's the best hope we have. He is trusted on both sides," Singapore Foreign Minister George Yeo said. "If he fails, then the situation can become quite dreadful."

Gambari, a former Nigerian foreign minister, was scheduled to fly straight to the generals' new capital, Naypyidaw, 385 km to the north, after landing in Rangoon from Singapore, a diplomatic source said.

Before leaving Singapore, Gambari said he was going "to deliver a message from the secretary general to the leadership."

GAMBARI in Singapore Sept. 29. AFP

"I look forward to a very fruitful visit so that I can report progress on all fronts," Channel News Asia quoted him as saying. Asked if he expected to meet detained prodemocracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, Gambari said: "I expect to meet all the people that I need to meet." *Reuters*

West vows to get tough—but how?

By Darren Schuettler

BANGKOK—OUTRAGED AT THE BLOODY crackdown against protesters in army-ruled Burma, the West is again vowing to get tough with its recalcitrant generals.

It's easier said than done.

For years the junta has ignored and survived trade bans, visa restrictions and asset freezes riddled with loopholes, enforced half-heartedly and hurting the people more than the generals, analysts say.

Now, with the world appalled at the violence on the streets of Burma's main city, Rangoon, Western governments are scrambling to find any lever to back up their rhetoric.

"Just saber-rattling and a lot of words is not going to be very credible," said Bradley Babson, a retired World Bank Burma expert.

"There may be a few symbolic things, but what we can we do to get to Than Shwe?" he said, referring to the senior general who has led the current junta since 1992.

Washington took aim at the junta supremo and 13 other top regime officials on Thursday, freezing their assets in the United States, banning their financial transactions and broadening a travel ban on them and their families.

"They are going after the personal finances of the regime for the first time in history," Jeremy Woodrum of the US Campaign for Burma said.

Sean Turnell, an Australian academic and co-author of Burma Economic Watch, said targeted sanctions would sting, but not threaten the generals' grip on power.

"So many of the generals themselves and people connected to them are desperate to send their children to Western universities. That affects them in a personal way," he said.

The US treasury department gave no further details, but other observers questioned their effectiveness.

"I don't think they have any assets in the US, nor are they interested in spending their holidays there. The generals' assets are, mostly, in banks in Singapore," said Bertil Lintner, a Burma expert based in Chiang Mai.

Academics, activists and exiles have long argued over the effectiveness of sanctions, first called for by democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi in the 1990s after the generals rejected a landslide election victory for her National League for Democracy.

The United States, the junta's loudest critic and the one with the toughest measures, first imposed sanctions in 1988 after soldiers crushed student-led protests, killing 3,000 people.

Washington banned new investments by US firms in 1997.

Six years later it restricted Burma's access to foreign banks and barred imports, a move that forced tens of thousands in textile factories out of work.

"The US sanctions ground business to a halt, but gradually they found ways around the sanctions," said Mark Farmaner of the Burma Campaign UK.

By comparison, sanctions imposed by European Union members over the years have been "pathetic," he said, most notably a freeze on assets that has netted less than 7,000 euros in all 27 EU member states.

Access to European markets is restricted and an arms embargo is in place, but many countries allow their companies to do business in Burma. *Reuters*

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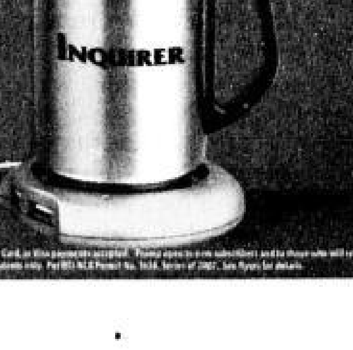

WHAT'S INSIDE

Internationals strike back /A28

Sunday SPORTS

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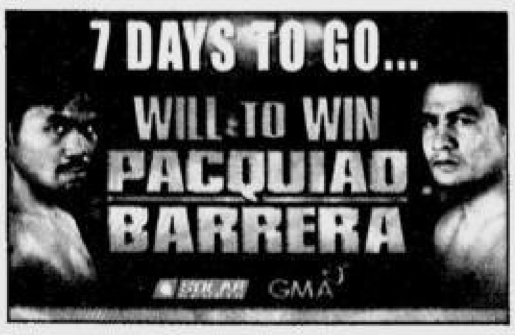
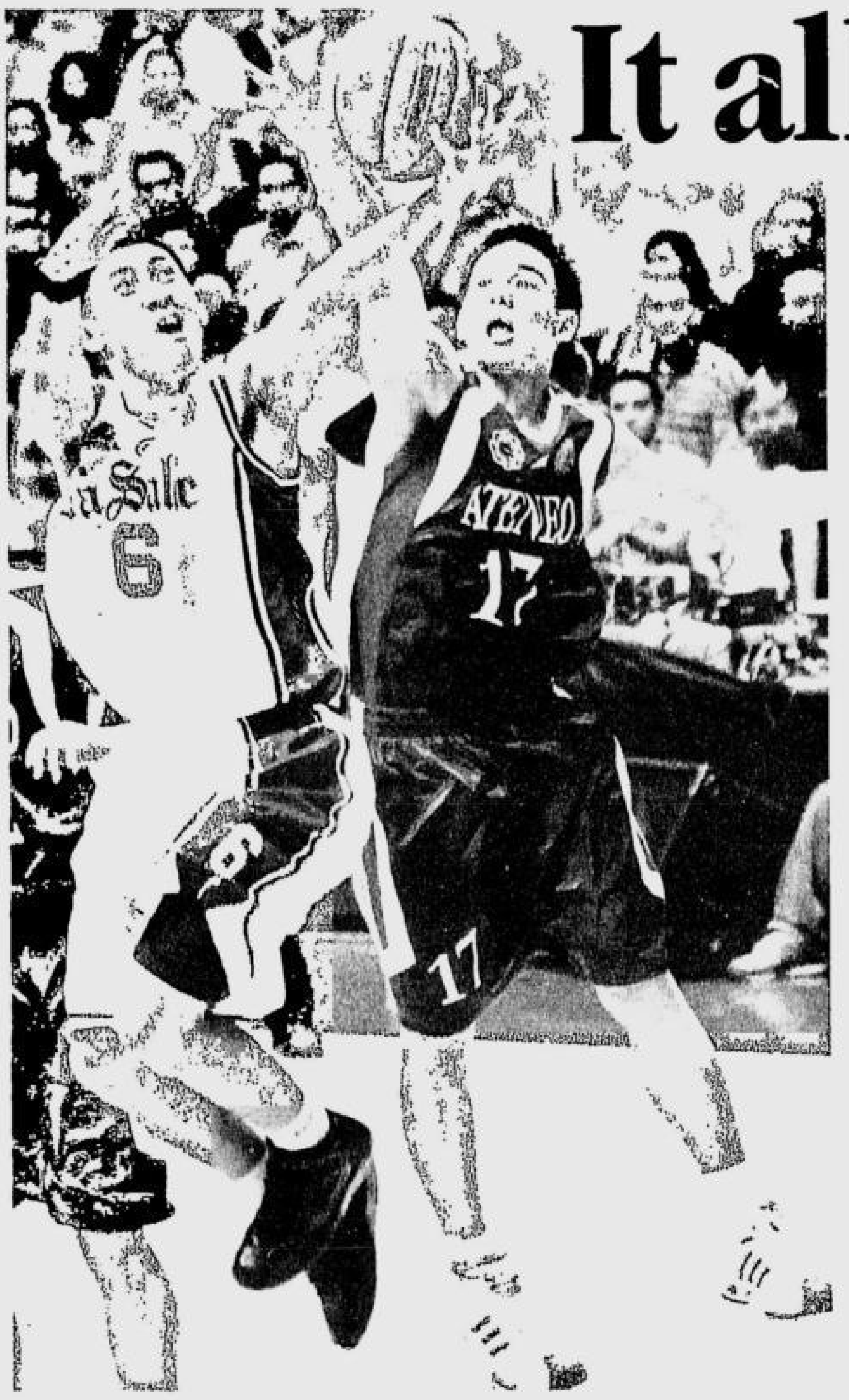


It all boils down to this

Eagles, Archers go at it a final time today



IT'S GOING to be a battle between top guns in blue and green as La Salle's JV Casio (left) and Ateneo's Chris Tiu go at it one last time this season. The winner of the no-tomorrow match advances to the finals against the UE Warriors. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GAME TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
3 p.m.—Ateneo vs De La Salle

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE COUNTRY'S GREATEST collegiate rivals take the court one last time in the UAAP basketball tournament this season.

And the Ateneo Blue Eagles and the De La Salle Green Archers continue to stoke the suspense as neither team claimed the advantage in their showdown for the second championship slot.

"We won by one point (last Thursday), I don't see too much of an advantage there," said Ateneo coach Norman Black. "It could have gone either way. Like I said before, these two teams are pretty evenly matched. It really depends on who has the will to win on that particular game."

The and fifth and last chapter—at least this season—of the emotionally charged rivalry will start at 3 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum with the winner sealing a best-of-three championship series against University of the East.

"There's no momentum in an Ateneo-La Salle game, but this is a different case, they just beat us by one point," said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren. "But we're still confident. Everybody will just have to step up and contribute."

The Archers missed a chance to close out the semifinal series after the Eagles came from behind to pull off a 65-64 squeaker to forge this do-or-die battle for the last Finals berth.

"There will be no major changes, if any, it will be very minimal," said Pumaren.

But the Eagles believe a lot more is needed to finish the job despite showing enough character to recover from the brink of elimination.

"It looks like we did a lot of things wrong," said Black. "La Salle played well, particularly defensively. We have to do a better job offensively while maintaining our defense. We must do a better job of breaking their press, which resulted to a lot of turnovers."

It was Chris Tiu who saved the day for Ateneo, scoring five of the team's last seven points, including the game-winning drive with 7.3 seconds left.

History, too, isn't on the Eagles side as only five third seeds have gone past the No. 2 squad since the Final Four format was introduced in 1994.

The Eagles have also never won four times against the Archers in one season.

And under Pumaren, the Archers have advanced to the Finals in all seven times they claimed the twice-to-beat bonus.

"The main thing is to prepare and to come out to play," said Black.

"It's all about heart and determination to win the game," said Pumaren.

And it's really all what the Eagles and the Archers can do judging from their four, highly unpredictable matches which saw no team winning by more than three points.

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La Salle, Ateneo split UAAP juniors, women trophies

JOSHUA Webb celebrates after finishing with 21 points and 21 rebounds for La Salle. RUDY ESPERAS

By Jasmine W. Payo

LA SALLE ZOBEL COMPLETED its UAAP comeback with a championship as the Junior Archers dethroned rival Ateneo Blue Eaglets with a 98-92 overtime decision yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Back in action following La Salle's one-year suspension, the Junior Archers refused to wilt in regulation with Jed Manguera burying a triple with two seconds left to forge extra period, 82-82.

"It was all heart that brought us here," said coach Boris Aldeguer after the Junior Archers swept the best-of-three title series. "That was a lost ballgame for us, and when Manguera took that shot, I said that this is ours."

With the Eaglets visibly demoralized, the Junior Archers surged ahead with Manguera drilling in four of the Junior Archers' first eight points in overtime for a 90-86 advantage, 2:11 remaining.

"This game was a vindication because we were never given a chance to defend our title," said Aldeguer. "First was our suspension. Second was our two losses against Ateneo (in the elimination) and third everyone thought we couldn't win (the championship) again."

Marco Fortuna topscored with 23 markers, including a key triple that gave the Junior Archers an 88-86 lead in the extra period.

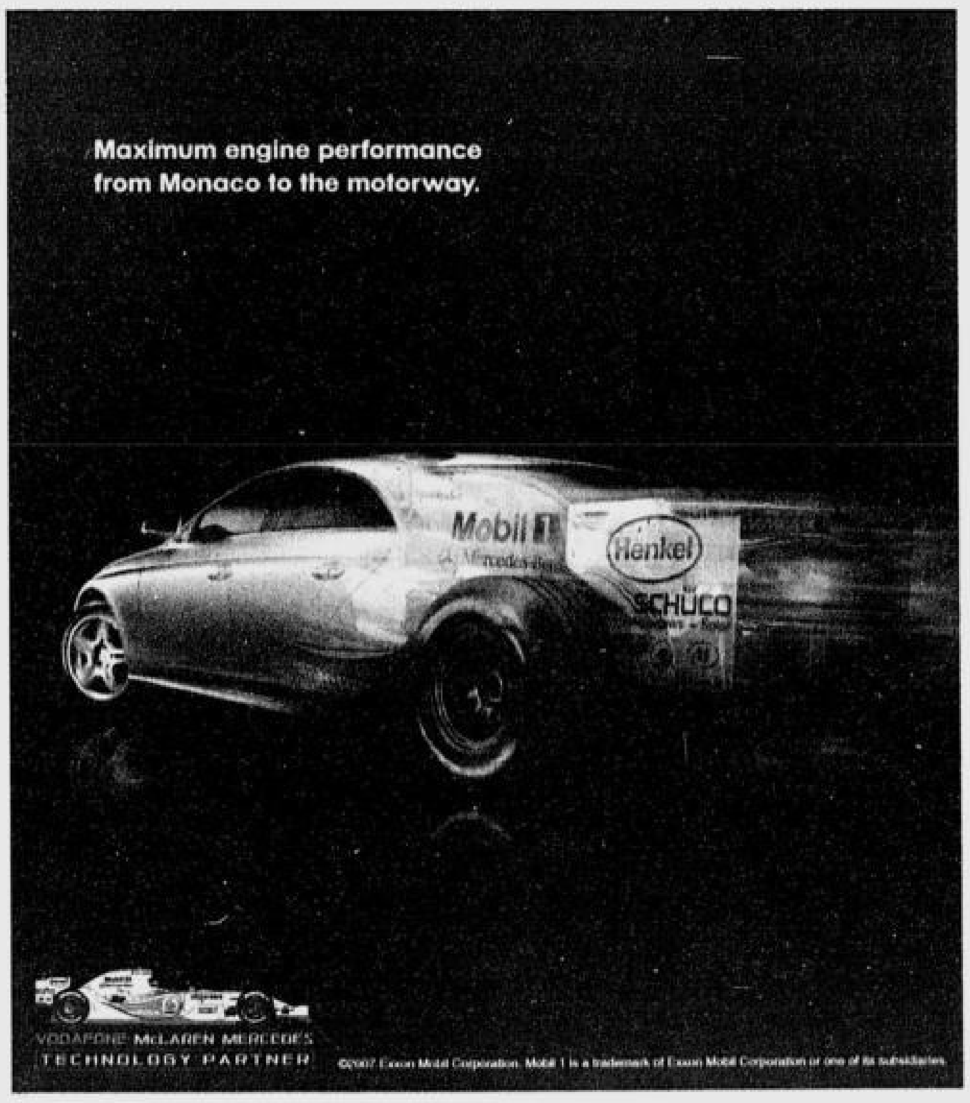
Joshua Webb, the grandson of former senator and pro cager Freddie Webb, delivered another huge performance with 21 points, 21 rebounds, two steals and two blocks.

The Junior Archers also overcame the career-high games of Juami Tiongson and rookie sensation Kiefer Ravena, who combined for 46 points.

Ateneo, though, found something to cheer about as the Lady Eagles swept the University of the Philippines Lady Maroons, 62-58, to capture the women's crown.

Treena Lingenco fired a game-high 16 points, including the decisive jumper that gave the Lady Eagles a 59-58 lead.

Game 1 heroine Kat Quimpo nailed two free throws with 6.2 seconds remaining to cushion their slim edge, 61-58.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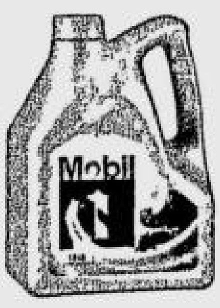

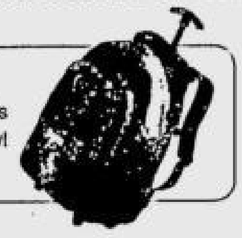

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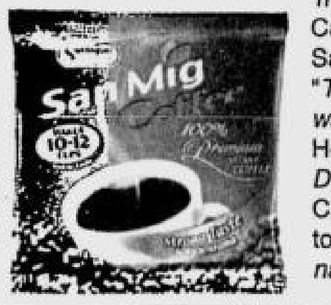
Mobil 1

PBA Legends show talent beyond the basketball court

They have taken more than the usual dose of winning and losing from which two powerful emotions -- joy and sorrow -- spring forth. Maybe that's why acting for the new **San Mig Coffee 100% Premium Instant Coffee** commercial was such a breeze for PBA Legends Alvin "The Captain" Patrimonio, Allan "*The Triggerman*" Caidic, Samboy "*The Skywalker*" Lim, Hector "*The Director*" Calma, Chito "*The Dynamite*" Loyzaga, and Peter "*The Sportscaster*" Martin.



Young and promising director Marian Basa shares her experience of directing the players: "*I was very excited when San Mig Coffee asked me to direct their first TV commercial for their black coffee. Seeing my favorite PBA players all together in one set is a dream come true.*"

"*I was pleasantly surprised at how the commercial set naturally turned into a real living room where big men seriously talk about their ideals, share of triumphs and banter playfully over steaming cups of black coffee,*" she adds.

The TVC, which will be aired starting September 14, revolves on the theme Tapang at Diskarte, two qualities attributed to the six PBA legends whose hard-court prowess are well-remembered by male and female basketball fans across ages.

"*For sure, Filipinos will be happy to see their basketball heroes again onscreen, this time, in a relaxed mood savoring their favorite black coffee,*" explains San Mig Coffee Brand Manager Vince dela Cruz.

In the commercial, Patrimonio is seen sharing with his basketball colleagues his thoughts about his favorite coffee -stronger in taste, with richer aroma and can make more cups than the other black coffee brands.

What's interesting in the commercial is how "The Captain" associates San Mig 100% Instant Premium Coffee with their qualities as basketball players: intense, fearless, and driven to go the extra mile.

It goes to show that even legends need to unwind, to stop for just a moment and savor the company of friends with a cup of strong, rich black coffee.

Pacquiao unveils 'bomb'

Will neutralize Barrera counter with 'liver breaker'

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—FOLLOWING REPORTS THAT the enemy has a new counter-plot, Manny Pacquiao yesterday unveiled the exclusive lethal blow, earlier likened to a bomb, which he polished during another no-break 14-round punching drill before familiar faces at the Wild Card gym here.

After a strict screening of guests, trainer Freddie Roach allowed Pacquiao to throw killer punches openly, with no let-up, unlike during media-day Thursday when the so-called bomb was kept under wraps.

Broken down, the special weapon is the culminating shot, not unlike a steel dagger, dug into the tip of the rib cage.

In its singularity, it's safe to say that the weapon is not actually a single blow, but a crushing combo of big, sharp punches. It could freely be called a liver breaker.

"Well, the great thing with Manny is that he seems to be even hungrier than he was before," Roach explained.

That means, Roach added, that Pacquiao's fabled warrior's appetite has not diminished despite his success and the superb form he has achieved through months of intensive training.

Pacquiao, who had another gruelling run through the hilly Griffith Park yesterday morning before the afternoon workout, returns to the gym for more rounds of sparring today.

Roach would not elaborate on when they first plotted the bomb-like blow, which was not in the Pacquiao artillery in his trilogy against Erik Morales.

"I don't care if Barrera uses dirty tactics," Pacquiao said. "The referee will take care of that."

Pacquiao did a total of 27 rounds in various gym work, topped by the 14-round non-stop punching drill, up from the 23 rounds Thursday.

He meets Marco Antonio Barrera, whom he stopped four years ago, in a rematch in Las Vegas on Oct. 6.

Meanwhile, the undefeated Edwin Valero, WBA 130-lb champion, picked Barrera over Pacquiao in an interview with the Spanish paper Esto.

Valero, who worked as Barrera sparmate in Guadalajara, said Barrera is faster than ever and will most likely get the decision.

Valero, a slow puncher, also described Pacquiao as awkward.

There were unconfirmed reports Valero had knocked out Barrera in one of their sparring sessions.

USING trainer Freddie Roach as dummy, Manny Pacquiao shows where he'll hurt Marco Antonio Barrera the most if the latter uncorks a counter-attack.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Alora blows Olympic qualifier

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND—KATHLEEN Eunice Alora bowed to slippery Hanna Sajc of Sweden, 4-3, Friday as the Philippine taekwondo campaign in the World Championships started on a sad note at the World Qualifying event at the Manchester Evening News (MEN) Arena here.

The soft-spoken De La Salle coed shed a tear of frustration after chasing Sajc all match long only to absorb crisp counterkicks that kept the Laguna lass at bay and proved decisive in the women's -49kg division match.

"She did what she had to do, but the opponent was powerfull and skillful," said women's team coach Rocky Samson. "There were points not given that I think she deserved, especially in the third round."

Samson later admitted that Alora moved "stiffly and tight."

Sacj eventually lost in the quarterfinals to Spain's two-time champ Brigit Yague. The Spaniard favorite, however, lost out in the medal round to the eventual champion from Chinese Taipei.

The RP campaign resumes Saturday with Olympic veterans Thsomlee Go and Mary Antoinette Rivero seeing action.

Go opens his bid in the tough 58-man field of the -58kg division, while Rivero competes in the women's -67kg category that has 29 entries.

Alexander Briones, the fourth member of the RP squad sent by the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Taekwondo Association, will compete on Sunday in the men's -80kg division.

Alora immediately found herself trailing following a brief exchange of kicks. She evened up later on but the Swede finished the round holding a 2-1 lead.

With a seemingly simple fighting style, Sacj patiently waited for an opening to pad the advantage to 3-1, before Alora made it 3-2 with a turning kick late in the second round.

"After the second round, the gameplan was for her to score quick two points," said Samson.

But the Swede connected on two more body blows for 5-2, before the Filipina delivered a point of her own with 20 seconds to go. Sacj, trying to preserve her lead, was then deducted one point after twice getting a warning for evading action.

Alora chased her all around the court as time expired.

MBT Corporate Cup fires off

THE 2007 MBT CORPORATE LEAGUE STARTS TOmorrow at the RTU gym with Polymasters of James Café gunning for their second straight championship.

A total of 12 teams will see action in the annual gathering of the country's top corporations.

Metro Basketball Tournaments, a non-profit, non-stock sports association headed by Commissioner Nilo C. Fernandez, will be at the helm of the tournament.

The teams will be divided into two groups with Polymasters, First Conference champion CKP 168, Mighty Filter Kings of Caesar Wongchuking, PNP Shooters of Major Romualdo Lacandazo, Paritas Trading and World Balance comprising Group A.

Group B is made up of Wang's of sportsman Alex Wang, Rusty Lopez of Gil Floritz, Jas Cellphone Accessories of Scott Go, Nougat Candy of Mike Mancilla, NRTP of Nino Reyes and Convergys.

Format calls for a single round elimination with top four teams in each group to advance to the cross-over quarterfinal round. Winners will move to the semis.

Interested parties may call 6367638 or text 09179948408 or visit metrobasketball.net.

Don't worry, Pacman tells 'cancelled' boxers

LOS ANGELES—TWO FIGHTERS FROM MINDANAO who failed to make it here in time for their Oct. 6 stint in Las Vegas would be included in a another American promotion in November, Manny Pacquiao assured yesterday. Jundy Maraon and Glenn Gonzales, undefeated boxers co-managed by Vice-Governor Manny Piñol North Cotabato and Chicago-based sportsman Rolly Hiso, failed to secure US visas due to late submission of petition papers. Their slots in the Pacquiao-Barrera card have been filled up by Michael Farenas and and journeyman Vernie Torres. *Recah Trinidad*

Nat'l boxing open under way today

BOXERS FROM PANABO A AND B of Davao del Norte will lead at least 350 boxers from all over the country vying for honors in the Smart National Open Boxing Championships starting today in Cagayan de Oro City.

Also competing in the week-long boxfest are members of the national training pool headed by Doha Asian Games gold medalists Violito Payla and Joan Tipon.

Misamis Oriental governor Oscar Moreno assures the participants that the province is ready to host the annual event which aims to discover new talents nationwide and gauge the condition of the nationals.

"We are cordially inviting you to participate in the tournament," said Gov. Moreno. Cagayan de Oro successfully hosted the Mindanao qualifying event.

Cagayan de Oro and Misasmis Oriental boast of a rich tradition in boxing. Payla, Basadre and the 1992 Olympics veteran Roberto Jalnaiz hail from the province.

Events on tap are seniors (19-32 years old), women (17-34 years old), juniors (17-19 years old), cadets (15-17 years old), school boys (13-15 years old), and kids (11-13 years old).

"Success is written all over the National Open due to the tireless efforts of Gov. Moreno and the people of Misamis Oriental," said boxing president Manny Lopez.

Another team to watch is the Arym team composed of two-time Olympian Harry Tañamor, Doha bronze medalist Godfrey Castro, Genebert Basadre, Maraon Goles and Maximo Tabangcora.

MANUEL V. Pangilinan (second from right), chair of PLDT-Smart, and boxing association president Manny T. Lopez (second from left) seal the deal that makes the country's largest telecommunications firm the main supporter of the country's brightest hope for an Olympic gold. PLDT-Smart offered P18.4 million to the boxing bid in a deal witnessed by boxing secretary general Rogello Fortaleza (left) and Anthony Pangilinan of the PLDT-Smart Foundation.

Sta. Lucia Tour bets leave tomorrow

WHAT COULD BE THE BIGGEST ever group of Filipino golfers to play a golf tournament abroad leaves in separate batches Monday and Tuesday for Bangkok, Thailand for a rare overseas edition of the popular Sta. Lucia Golf Tour.

There are 188 confirmed entries coming from eight different clubs flying the banner of giant real estate firm Sta. Lucia in the 36-hole competitions to be played at the challenging Lam Lukka and Lakewood courses in the fringes of the Thai capital on Wednesday and Thursday (Oct. 3 and 4).

Alta Vista make up the bulk of the roster with 58 players, followed by Rancho Palos Verdes with 35, Royale Tagaytay 21, Orchard 20, Eagle Ridge and Lakewood with 16 each and Caliraya Springs and Summit Point fielding six each.

By its sheer size, Alta Vista should have the outright advantage in the team and individual battles as it eyes another dominating performance like the one it pulled off a year ago when the Tour went around four courses in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

"The new locations will make things equal for everybody playing and we're looking forward to everyone having fun in this special edition of the Sta. Lucia Tour," said Sta. Lucia Tour executive committee co-chair Vicente Santos and Engr. Wini Gob.

"For the longest time, we have been planning to hold an event outside the country knowing that we will be the first real estate company to pull it off. The big number of entries confirms our thoughts that club members have been waiting for it as well."

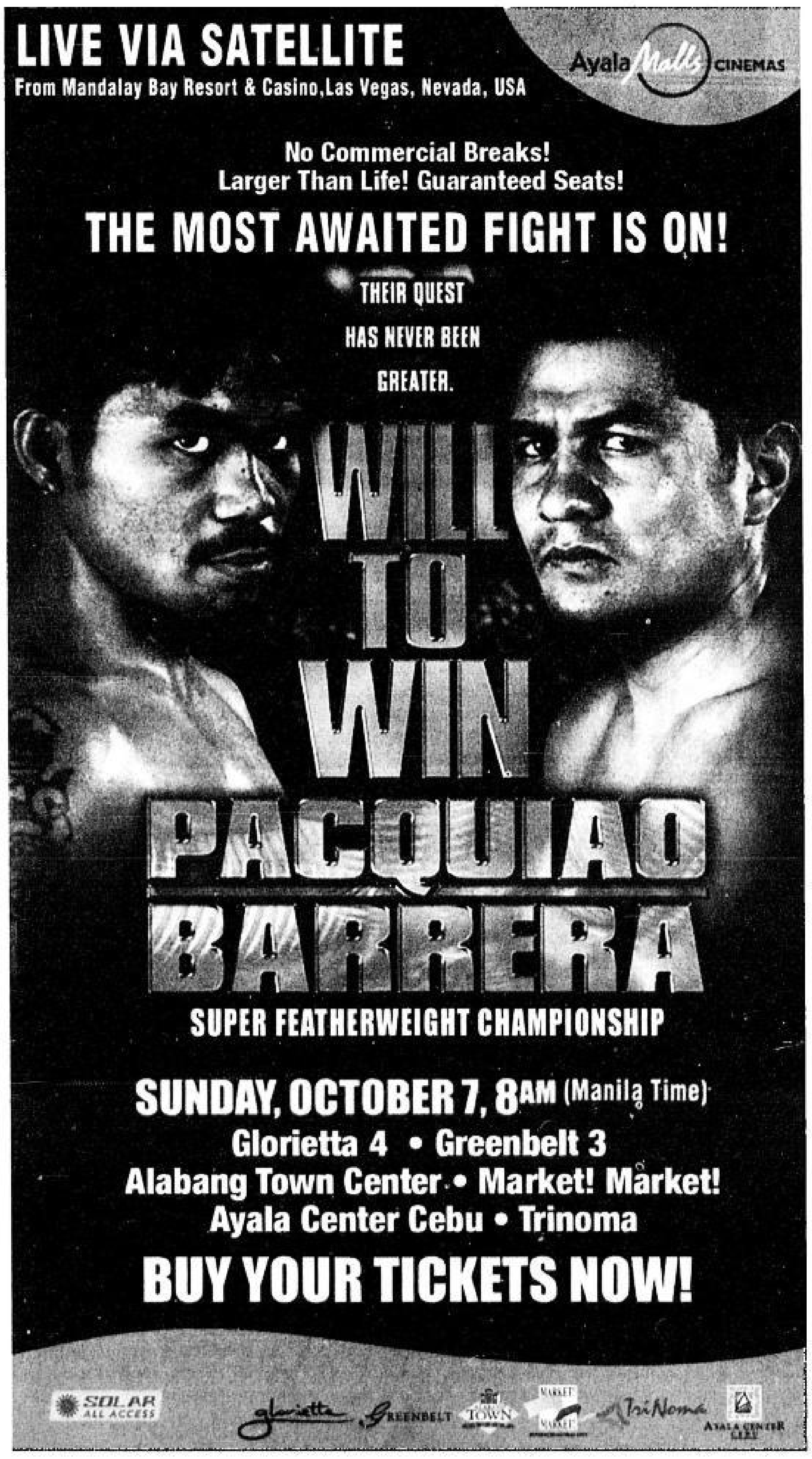
Sta. Lucia is subsidizing the expenses for all participants as part of its marketing efforts.

Santos and Gob are expected to be joined in the trip by Sta. Lucia Realty president Exequiel Robles and the top brass of eight golf clubs represented in the tournament sponsored by Samsung, Philippine Airlines, Thai Airways and Callaway/Electrobus Consolidated, Inc.

The Professional Sports Management Group, Inc. will be handling the tournament operations for Sta. Lucia.

There will be team and individual awards to be disputed. In the two-man team event, the participating teams will be equally divided into three groups with Group 1 for the handicap range of 10 to 15.9, Group 2 for 16-26.9 and Group 3 for 27 d above.

Individual entries, meanwhile, will fall into championship if their handicaps are from 0 to 3.9, Class A 4-8.2, Class B 8.3-13.4, Class C 13.5-17.8 and Class D 17.9-27.



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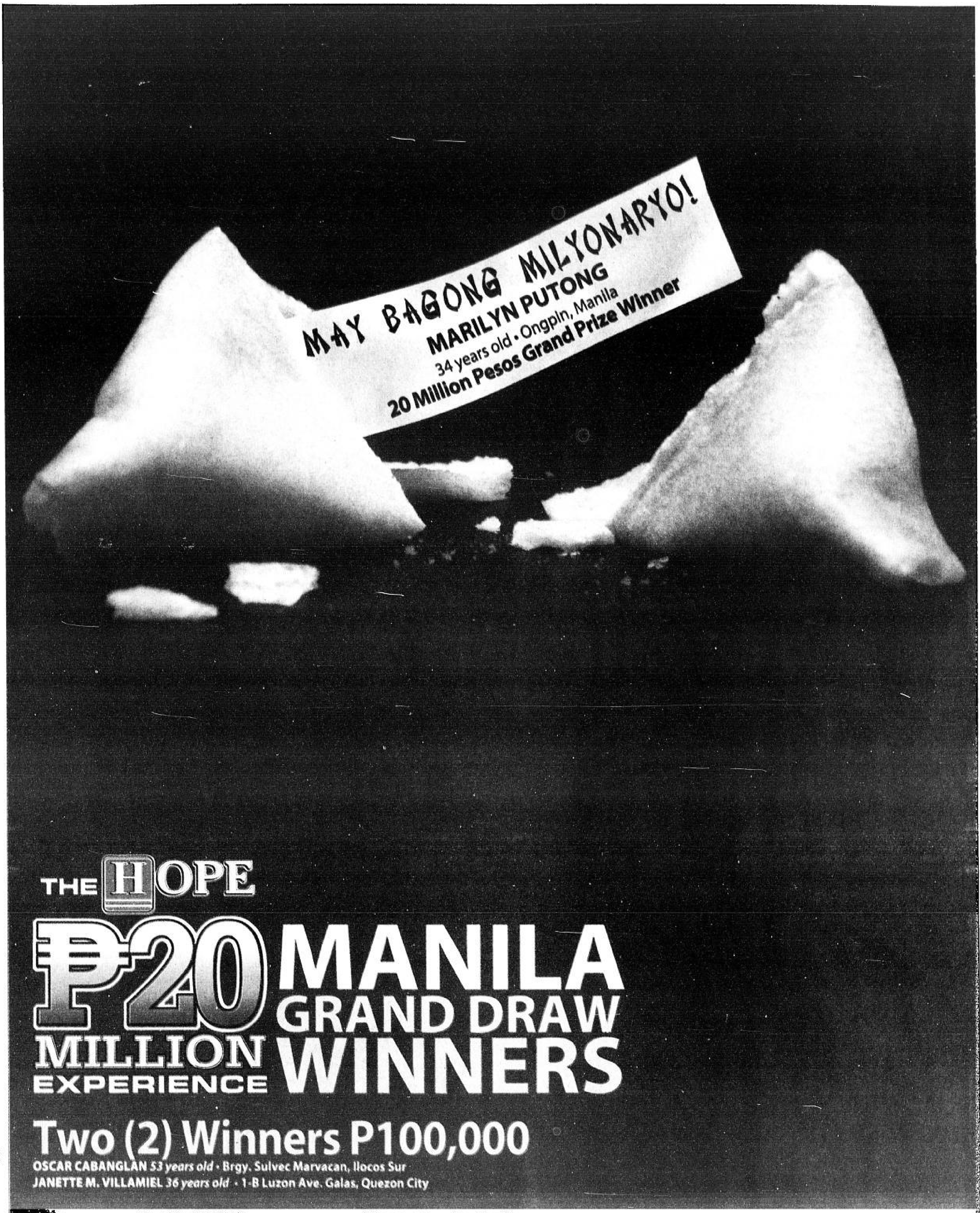
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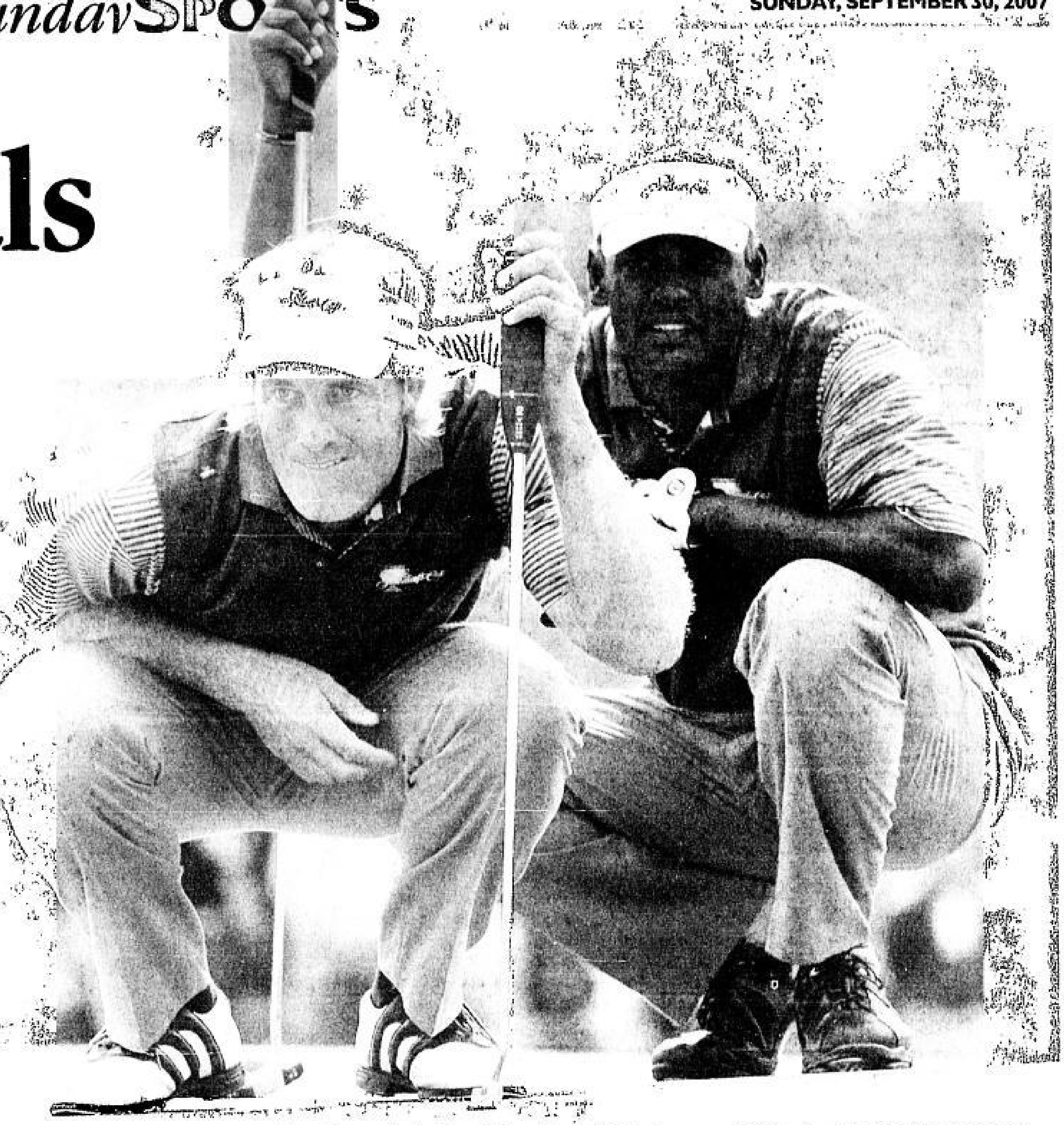
PRESIDENTS CUP

Internationals strike back



INTERNATIONALS Stuart Appleby of Australia (left) and Vijay Singh of Fiji led a successful Day 2 against the Americans by routing Tiger Woods and Jim Furyk in fourballs. REUTERS

MONTREAL—VIJAY SINGH AND STUart Appleby handed Tiger Woods his worst-ever match play loss as a professional on Friday and the International team pulled within 7-5 of the United States on the second day of the Presidents Cup.

After earning only a half point out of six matches on Thursday, the International team moved back into contention.

"We needed some sanity today," Appleby said. "We got totally cleaned yesterday."

The match that got it started seemed totally insane.

Singh and Appleby played 14 holes of better ball in 11-under par and dominated Woods and Jim Furyk, 5 and 4. Woods had never before been on the losing end of a match that didn't make it to the 15th hole at a Presidents Cup or Ryder Cup.

WOODY Austin takes a plunge on the 14th hole during his second round fourball match. REUTERS

Singh holed a bunker shot at the first for birdie before making an eagle from the fairway at the par-5 sixth. Appleby later eagled the par-5 12th by sinking a 32-foot putt.

"We needed the point," Singh said. "We needed something to boost our guys up."

The momentum carried over on a day where there were so many amazing shots that fans must have felt like they were watching video game golf.

Mike Weir, playing with Ernie Els, made seven birdies in 17 holes as he and his South African partner beat Charles Howell III and Zach Johnson, 3 and 1.

"He played some just amazing golf today," Els said.

Fans sang impromptu renditions of O Canada while Weir walked the fairways and one even stopped his wife Bricia to have her sign an autograph. Weir embraced the attention and struck quality shots all day long.

"I couldn't ask to play much better," he said.

Retief Goosen and Angel Cabrera saw their match reach the 18th hole, which was very unkind to the Internationals on Thursday. But Cabrera erased any bad memories by rolling in an 11-foot birdie putt that secured the hole and a 1-up victory over Phil Mickelson and Hunter Mahan.

Nick O'Hern and Geoff Ogilvy battled Americans Stewart Cink and Lucas Glover all day long. That match also reached the final green, where Ogilvy made a four-foot birdie putt to secure another 1-up win.

The final group of the day also reached No. 18. Americans Woody Austin and David Toms had won the two holes before that to get back to all square with Trevor Immelman and Rory Sabbatini.

Austin, who earlier had fallen in a lake, hit an approach shot close at the finishing hole and Sabbatini followed with one of his own. They each sunk the birdie putts for the lone halved match of the afternoon.

The only American team to win a full point was Steve Stricker and Scott Verplank. They defeated Adam Scott and KJ Choi, 2 and 1.

In the end, the International Team took 4 1/2 of six points from the second session. It was exactly what they needed.

"We knew we had to dig deep today," said Weir. "I think people were counting us out a little quickly." *AP*

World Cup debut awaits Rosales, Lascuña

KUALA LUMPUR—THAI STARS Thongchai Jaidee and Prayad Marksaeng were joined atop the leaderboard by a pair of flying Dutchmen at the Fortis International Challenge on Saturday.

Overnight leader Thailand carded a bogey-free 63 in the third round's fourballs at Kota Permai Golf and Country Club, thanks to a sparkling performance from Prayad who sank eight birdies.

Holland's Maarten Lafeber and Rober-Jan Derksen produced a stunning 61, highlighted by an opening eagle by Lafeber, to tie for the lead on 22-under-par 194 in the qualifier for the Omega Mission Hills World Cup in China in November.

Myanmar's Soe Kyaw Naing and Zaw Moe matched the day's best of 61, which included six birdies on the trot, for joint third place with Filipino duo Tony Lascuña and Gerald Rosales, who shot a 64 to lie three off the lead.

With the top-five finishers earning tickets to the World Cup, Korea's Lee Sung and Lee Seung-ho presently occupy fifth place on 198 after a battling 66.

A World Cup debut awaits Rosales and Lascuña after they posted a bogey-free 64.

"We started pretty good," said Rosales. "We were three under after five and from six to 10, we didn't make any birdies. We stopped for a while but we played pretty good after that so we are happy," he added. "We just have to stick to the same game plan tomorrow which is to hit fairways and greens and hopefully make some putts."

The Koreans were kicking themselves after missing two makeable birdie putts on the par five 18th hole which would have given them a handy two-shot cushion over sixth-placed New Zealand, represented by Stephen Scahill and Richard Lee.

"We didn't putt good at all, didn't play well," said the 21-year-old Seung-ho.

McLaren aces qualify 1-2; F1 club airs Japanese GP

OYAMA, JAPAN—LEWIS HAMILTON TOOK the pole position in wet conditions for the Japanese Grand Prix by having the fastest time in a weather-affected qualifying session.

Hamilton did 1 minute 25.368 seconds. His teammate, with whom Hamilton has been feuding, was second with 1:25.438.

It was the fourth pole position for Hamilton this season, including the disputed one when he was moved from second past Alonso at the Hungarian GP after Alonso was penalized for delaying Hamilton.

The Ferrari and McLaren drivers have won all of the 14 races to date with Alonso and Raikkonen taking four each, including splitting the last two.

In the morning, fog canceled the final practice and threatened to throw the qualifying into doubt.

Philippine racing fans can watch the live telecast of the Japan Grand Prix for free at MP Turbo's F1 Club at Speedzone in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City today starting at 11:30 a.m.

The Fuji International Speedway is the newest track in the F1 circuit and marks the return of F1 in Japan after 30 years.

Owned and refurbished by Toyota, the track was upgraded by world-renowned designer Herman Tilke.

The F1 Club attendees will have chances to participate in the F1 Trivia contest and Pick-the-Top-3 quiz. For details, contact MP Turbo at 09194921575.

The sport's governing body, FIA, requires that a medical helicopter be able to fly in case of accidents. It went up briefly and the cars hurried to the track, but five minutes later the helicopter was grounded because of the weather and the cars stopped.

Cars needed the running, not only because of the need to run under wet conditions after Friday's training was dry, but also because the track is new.

HAZING victims all: (Clockwise from left) The New York Yankees' Kei Igawa is dressed as a character from The Wizard of Oz as are his teammates Joba Chamberlain (Lion), Ian Kennedy (Dorothy), Shelley Duncan (Scarecrow) and Phil Hughes (Tin Man). Arizona Diamondbacks rookie third baseman Mark Reynolds walks into the Weston Hotel wearing a nurse costume in Denver as teammate Jailen Peguero dresses as a half-naked cowboy. All players are rookies undergoing initiation rites from their Major League teams. AP

Boston Red Sox claim AL East title

BOSTON—THE BOSTON RED SOX won the American League East title for the first time in 12 years after securing a 5-2 victory over the Minnesota Twins on Friday, while the New York Yankees lost to the Baltimore Orioles.

"It's awfully sweet," catcher and Red Sox captain Jason Varitek said as teammates sprayed champagne on his head and hugged each other in celebration at Fenway Park.

Daisuke Matsuzaka, emerging from a slump that began in early August, allowed six hits in eight innings in pitching the Red Sox to victory, striking out eight to finish his much-hyped first Major League season with an ERA of 4.40.

Baltimore beat the Yankees when Melvin Mora reached on an infield single in the 10th inning that scored Tike Redman. The loss ended nine straight division titles by the Yankees and gives the Red Sox home-field advantage in the postseason.

"When you have the Yankees in your division you feel like you have a stalker," said Red Sox General Manager Theo Epstein.

Boston and New York had already clinched berths in the playoffs, which begin next week.

When the Yankees lost, the centerfield scoreboard at Fenway lit up with the words "Champions of the American League East," drawing cheers from thousands of fans who waited after the Red Sox victory to see the outcome in Baltimore.

Boston held first place in the AL East since April 18 but stumbled badly, allowing their lead to narrow from 11½ games on July 5 to 1½ this month. *Reuters*

SPORTSWATCH

Father-son holes-in-one

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND—LIKE FAther, like son. Two swings, two holes-in-one. When Trevor Jones aced the 128-yard 10th hole at Auckland's Waitemata Golf Club recently, his son Mark followed suit. The Joneses were playing in the same, four-man group when the 68-year-old Trevor's tee shot at the par-3 hole rolled out of sight and appeared to drop into the cup. Mark, 39, wasn't sure his father had made the hole-in-one, but said if he managed to do so, he would buy dinner. He teed off and his ball also rolled out of sight. Father and son didn't know that they had both aced the hole until they walked to the green and found both balls in the cup. The odds of making an ace are estimated at more than 1,000-1, and two holes-in-one at the same hole on the same day are almost 1 million-1.

Ford Focus final race set

TUASON RACING SCHOOL AND FORD Philippines stages the final round of the 2007 TRS Ford Focus Celebrity and Media Cup at the Subic International Raceway today. Dubbed "Fast Cars & Stars," the event's winner will get a trip to the World Rally Cup in Great Britain where they can witness first-hand action from Ford Rally driver Marcus Gronholm. Participants including model Issa Litton and Round 1 Celebrity Category winner Dominic Ochoa. Qualified participants raced the tracks of the Subic International Raceway as TRS chief JP Tuason and a group of instructors taught different techniques.

Two bets top LGBA derby

JOENER LETADA OF BULACAN AND Mayor Cito Alberto of Catanduanes topped the 189-entry Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 7- stag derby last Wednesday at the San Juan Coliseum. Letada's and Alberto's entries tallied seven wins each for the title. Competition for the second leg gets underway on Oct. 4 at Lucky Sports Complex in San Pablo, Laguna. LGBA members may also field entries during the elimination at the Araneta Coliseum (Oct. 9 and 11). For details, call 09205851940.

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Special Blend (1), Fire Prince (4), Blue Collar (7), Magic Thunder (8)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Bom's Treasure (4), Ideal Gazo (3), Jayvie's Godfather (5), Summer Rain (1)
Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Speed Madonna (8), Royal King (3), Oki Doki (4), Gobernadora (6), Final Countdown (5)
Race 4—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Kimagure (7), Prima Vera (11), Raven (10), Kate Alessandra (2), Speed Bullet (4)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Anonymous/Indelible Ink (6), Love Story (3), Royal Family (2), Arithmetic (1)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Defiant (8), Thywillbedone (4), Quick Play (7), Hok Kee Hok (2), Ilocos Pride (6)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Speed Almighty (4), He's The Man, General Onay (2), Bohemian Dave (7), Granil (5), Santo Santilo (9)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Speed Admiral (6), Eskapo (5), Unleashed (3), Whilly Nilly (1)
Race 9—(Qrt/Tri)—Batang Bukid/Alam Mo Na Yan (8), Refreshing (5), Pablic Express (1), Bullish Dream (4)
Race 10—(Tri)—Tellmenolies (1), Vivere (2), War Alert (5)
Race 11—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Cheska Run (12), Golden Harry (8), Noble Scholar (6), Interceptor (9), Virgin Hill (7), Imperial Manila (10)
Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Campaign Warrior (4), Wind Shore Lady (7), Just Superb (5), Sugar Daddy (3), Be Faithful (8)
Race 13—(Super/Qrt/Tri)—Mister Cool (10), Speed King (5), Princess Ther Ther (6), Golden Lance (2), Old Reliable (12), Ray Moon Star/Iron Mic (4)

Chinese face Bata, Django; US, Taiwan bets crash out

CHINA ARRANGED A QUARTERFINAL showdown with defending champion Philippines Saturday even as powerhouse Taiwan and the United States bowed out in big upsets in the 2007 PartyPoker.net World Cup of Pool at the Outland Nightclub in Rotterdram, the Netherlands.

The Chinese pair of Li Hewen and Fu Jianbo ousted the French combination of Stephan Cohen and Vincent Facquet, 8-6, to advance against the top-rated Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante in the race-to-nine duel in the Final 8.

The Filipinos, who produced the tournament's first whitewash in whipping Croatia, 8-0, in the Round of 32 Thursday, looked all the more unbeatable following the unexpected exit of the second-seeded Americans and the third-rated Taiwanese.

Switzerland, bannered by Marco Tschudi and Dimitri Jungo, eliminated the American partnership of Rodney Morris and Corey Deuel, 8-6, while Belgium's unheralded Noel Bruynooghe and Serge Das booted out Taiwanese Wu Chia-ching, the 2005 world 9-ball champion, and Yang Ching-shun, 8-6.

Bruynooghe, who is ranked 46th in Europe, and Das, a lowly 60th in the region, made it here only after Malaysian bets Ibrahim Bir Amir and Patrick Ooi missed the trip due to financial constraints.

Morris, on the other hand, teamed up with Steve Strickland in reaching last year's finals before losing to Reyes and Bustamante in the title match.

Singapore also created a stir as Chang Ken Kwan and Toh Lian Han eliminated Martin Kempter and Albin Ouschan of Austria, 8-2, to advance against Japan.

The win assured Asia of a semifinal slot from the upper bracket with the survivor of the Singapore-Japan clash meeting the winner of the RP-China encounterin the Final Four.

Belgium sealed a quarterfinal showdown with Canada, represented by Filipino-Canadian Edwin Montal and Alain Martel, with Switzerland advancing against Finland.

Laylo gains World Cup slot

Ends up tied for 6th-8th; Antonio misses berth

Final standings:

8 points—Zhang P. (China), Wang H. (China); 7.5—A. Kunte (India), Zhao J. (China), S. Megaranto (Indonesia), Wen Y. (China), **D. Laylo (RP)**, Zhou J. (China); 7—G. Gopal (India), E. Hossain (Bangladesh), **R. Antonio (RP)**, M. Al-Modiahki (Qatar) G. Rohit (India); 6.5—Yu S. (China), Li C (China), Ni H. (China), A. Filippov (Uzbekistan), M. Al-Modiaki (Qatar); 6—**E. Torre (RP), M . Paragua (RP), W. So (RP), O. Dimakiling (RP)**, U. Adianto (Indonesia), L. Q Liem (Vietnam), C. Deepan (India), C. Sandipan (India), D.T. Hai (Vietnam), Xu J. (China), M.Mahjoobzardast (Iran); 5.5—**S. Yap (RP), R. Bancod (RP)**, P. Negi (India), M. Al Sayed (Qatar), D.D. Trong (Vietnam); 5—**R. Bitoon (RP), A. Makinano (RP)**, J. Alavi (Iran), H. Toufighi (Iran), T. Batchulun (Mongolia) A. Kim (Korea); 4.5—**H. Nouri (RP), R. Tolentino (RP), E. Bagamasbad (RP)**, Shen Y. (China), P. Arun (India), L. Ravi (India), B. Bayarmandakh (Mongolia); 4—**E. Senador (RP)**, B. Lalith (India), S. Khader (Jordan), M. Russell (Sri Lanka); 3.5—N. Hussein (Iraq); 2.5—**M. Maga (RP)**; 1.5—S. Fancy (PNG); .5—Yueh W.P. (Taipei)

By Roy Luarca

MANDAUE CITY—SAME NOTIONS, different results for Darwin Laylo and Grandmaster Rogelio "Joey" Antonio Saturday night.

Both settled for draws in the 11th and final round of the Sixth Asian Individual Championships, but only Laylo, who halved the point with tournament winner GM Zhang Pengxiang of China after eight moves of a Slav, advanced to the World Cup slated in Khanty-Mansyisk, Russia, from Nov. 22-Dec. 15.

Two days after securing his GM title, Laylo further boosted his stock by becoming the first Filipino to qualify for the World Cup by way of the Asian Championship with 7.5 points, half a point behind Zhang and second placer GM Wang Hao, also of China.

Zhang and Hao will split $11,000.

Antonio, who split the point with Indonesian GM Susanto Megaranto after 15 moves of a Caro-Kann, narrowly missed the last of the 10 slots allotted for the region, winding up 11th after the tiebreak was applied twice.

In the first tiebreak, Antonio wound up tied with Bangladeshi IM Enamul Hossein, who caught up with him at 7.0 points following a victory over Indian GM Chakkravarthy Deepan.

When the second tiebreak was applied, Hossein got the upperhand with 2529 against Antonio's 2504.

Also bound for the World Cup were Chinese GM Zhao Jun, IM Wen Yang and GM Zhou Jianchao, who shared third to eight places with Laylo. They will pocket $2,167 each.

G.N. Gopal, who became India's 17th GM early this year, wound up ninth with 7.0 points.

"I'm really very happy. I fulfilled two dreams here: become a GM and play in the World Chess Cup," said Laylo.

No other Filipino bet came close to ending the Chinese dominance.

Smarting from an endgame blunder in the 10th round, IM Oliver Dimakiling trounced South Korean Alexey Kim with the black pieces to join countrymen GM Eugene Torre, GM Mark Paragua and IM Wesley So at 6.0 points, good for 21st to 32nd places and $500 each.

WWW.CHESSBASE.DE

CHINA'S GM Zhang Pengxiang (right) tops Sixth Asian Championships.

The commish according to Sonny

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

AFTER THE two-day directional meeting of the PBA board in Macau early this week, league followers should be closely monitoring the process involved in the selection of a permanent commissioner. But before we go to that, first things first.

Since the qualities of the commissioner will depend on the kind of company he will serve, the board will first have to decide if the league will turn corporate. Right now the PBA is classified as an association.

In Macau, the board agreed to hire an outfit that will evaluate the pros and cons of going corporate.

Chair Tony Chua of Red Bull said it is about 90 percent certain that the league will become a corporation. The evaluation is just like going through the process of due diligence, he pointed out.

***

Tony said the criteria for choosing the commissioner, or the chief executive officer, will be determined by a five-man committee composed of himself, vice chair Joaqui Trillo, treasurer Robert Non and governors Ricky Vargas and Lito Alvarez.

The actual selection, however, will be done by the entire board.

"We do not have a short list yet. We will have to go back to square one. The floor is open for nominations. Anyone can nominate," Tony explained.

Because the criteria have not been established, Tony said that even he does not have a specific candidate in mind as of now.

***

Having served under four commissioners in the last two decades before the Noli Eala regime, OIC Sonny Barrios should know the qualities that would make an ideal PBA leader.

But before I popped the question, I thought it would only be proper if I asked Sonny if he was interested in the position he was presently occupying on a permanent basis.

Sonny's reply: "I'm not going for the long haul. This is as far as I go. I can stay as long as they're still looking for a commissioner, but nothing permanent."

***

If he were asked to join the selection committee, Sonny would have a ready list of his own criteria for choosing a commissioner. First, he said, the man must love sports.

"If not basketball, at least some other sport or sports in general. It doesn't have to be love, interest will do. Because if you do not have this interest, you will not last."

Second, Sonny said the commissioner must have management expertise, or corporate exposure, because he will be managing office and people. A knowledge of marketing will definitely help, he said.

"Remember our old slogan that said the PBA is more than just basketball? Well it is a business too, which means that the commissioner will have to be competent in every facet of the PBA."

***

For Sonny, the PBA commissioner should be a pretty exceptional guy with a well developed sense of fairness. His objectivity must be well-established because he has to be trusted by, in this case, 10 competing entities. "He should understand fully the uniqueness of the structure of the league where he is hired by a collegial body and can be fired by it. Lastly, he must be conscious of the league's different publics which include the employees, the owners, the media and the paying public. He has to know the PBA's reason for existence."

Former commissioner Rudy Salud's concept of the PBA is "Filipino basketball played by Filipino players for Filipinos in the Philippines."

Hey, that sounds really profound. It says so much if you try to read between the lines.

Buncio ends Jao's superbike dynasty

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—MAICO Buncio ended the 10-year reign of Jolet Jao as he emerged Rider of the Year at the conclusion of the 2007 Shell Advance Superbikes Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

Buncio was ahead by just two points entering the final race but Jao was forced out of the race in the third lap when his chains broke.

Yamaha's Buncio is only on his first year in the Expert division of the series sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa).

After claiming the checkered flag, Buncio rushed to his father Yoyong.

"He's a great dad," said Buncio. "This is for him, for teaching me everything and supporting me all the way."

Organizers also paid tribute to rider Gherry Chua, who was gunned down the night after taking second place overall in the Novice division last Sunday.

Prior to the final race, Buncio finished fifth behind Jao, Glen Aguilar, eventual third placer Rod Chua and David Pua.

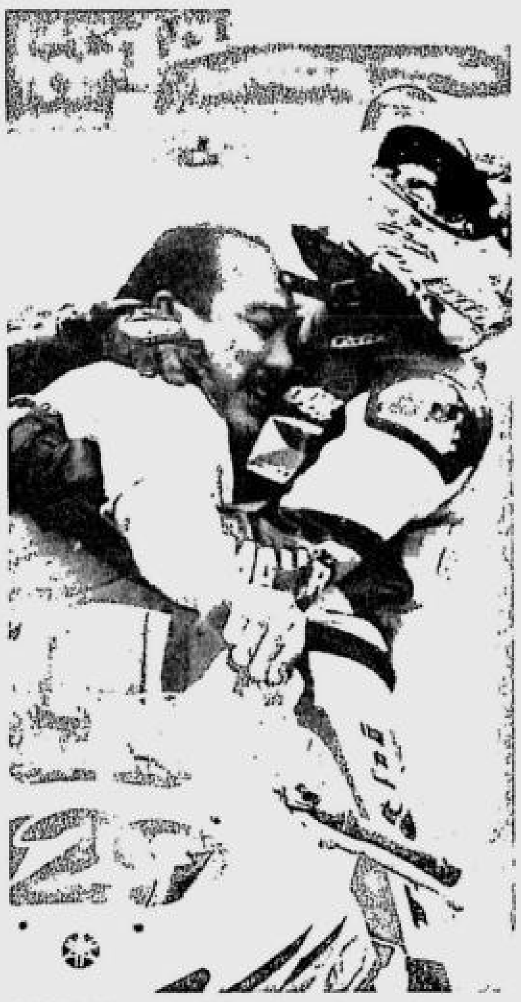
Buncio saw his 11-point advantage over Jao trimmed to just two going into the final race. All Jao had to do was win the race to claim his 11th straight crown.

Without Jao, Buncio coasted smoothly before wrapping up the 10-lap race with a time of 17 minutes, 59.275 seconds, 19.489 seconds ahead of Aguilar.

Pua and Julian Goitia checked in fourth and fifth, respectively.

Aguilar went on to claim the Novice crown while Simon Salenda took the 400cc title over Mervin Estrella.

For full results and other details, interested parties may log on to www.batangasracingcircuit.com or call 8172241, 7295365 or fax no. 8151241.



MAICO Buncio of Yamaha rushes to hug father Yoyong after clinching the coveted Rider of the Year crown, snapping Jolet Jao's 10-year reign.

Indelible Ink eyes Juvenile repeat victory

CARMONA, CAVITE—INDELIBLE INK AND Speed Almighty shoot for repeats of their respective Juvenile Race conquests when the second installment of the rich series is held today at the San Lazaro Leisure Park here.

The chestnut Indelible Ink, although under a new rider, will march as the overwhelming first choice in the Fillies Division owing to a superlative run against basically the same field last month.

Jeffryl T. Zarate, who earned a new lease on life by hooking up with the Hermie Esguerra stables, partners the daughter of Best of Luck out of Seaquin for the second time, but first in a race this big.

Zarate, a Class A rider, was canned for a year after being caught dropping weights aboard Slatkis in a major race last year and the sportsman Esguerra was only willing to gamble on the rider and give him a second chance.

Indelible Ink, who this early is being considered as a prime Triple Crown prospect, will run 1,500 meters for the first time in her career. She will actually be shooting to win a fifth straight race and the P900,000 top purse that goes with it.

Post time for the Fillies race is around 4:15 p.m., before the colts are flagged off at around 5:25.

While pundits see an easy repeat for Indelible Ink, Speed Admiral will have his hands full with He's The Man, also an Esguerra entry, itching for redemption in the Colts race also spread over 1,500 meters.

Raquel will handle Speed Almighty, the Heza Gone West out of Speed Goddess son who made the most out of the last-minute withdrawal of the formidable Tabako to win over He's The Man by more than three lengths.

Musong R. Castillo

Tuason drivers lead Touring favorites

TUASON RACING DRIVERS STUART MacDonald and Juny Binamira gear up for another tough contest as they challenge the favorites in the fourth leg of the 2007 Philippine Touring Car Championship today at the Subic International Raceway.

Barely a year in the touring car scene, Tuason Racing has already proven it can be competitive as proven by the consistent performances of MacDonald and Binamira in the previous leg where the duo delivered four third-place trophies.

MacDonald, a British expat, had two third place finishes in the Group 3 division.

Binamira, a naval architect who used to race sailboats and yachts, debuted in touring car with two third place trophies in the Group 3 Class C category.

MacDonald started fourth at the start of the race but moved up to third behind Bingo Valero on the sixth lap after the collision between Chris Guevarra and Doby Atillano.

He kept his post from there to eventually end up third behind Bosch-Intelco drivers JP Cariño and Angelo Tambo.

In the afternoon race, MacDonald slipped past Chris Guevarra to secure third place on the fourth lap and warded off Valero the rest of the way.

Ex-archer rules nat'l shooting tournament

THE COUNTRY'S PREMIER SHOOTERS ruled the 2007 National Open Shooting Championship recently—and in the process declared themselves ready for the 2007 Asian Clay Shooting Championship next month—at the PNSA-PSC Clay Target Shooting Range in Bucor, Muntinlupa City.

Carlos Carag, Olympian Jethro Dionisio and consistent SEAG winner Eric Ang flashed their deadly form to secure the top three places in the trap event of the National Open.

The 44-year old Carag, a former member of the national archery team, actually ended up tied with Dionisio with 134 points, but went on to win the title after a shoot-off.

"We had a good tune-up in the Open, and I'm sure we'll be even better come the Asian championship," said Carag.

Ang settled for the bronze with 133, just a point behind the leaders.

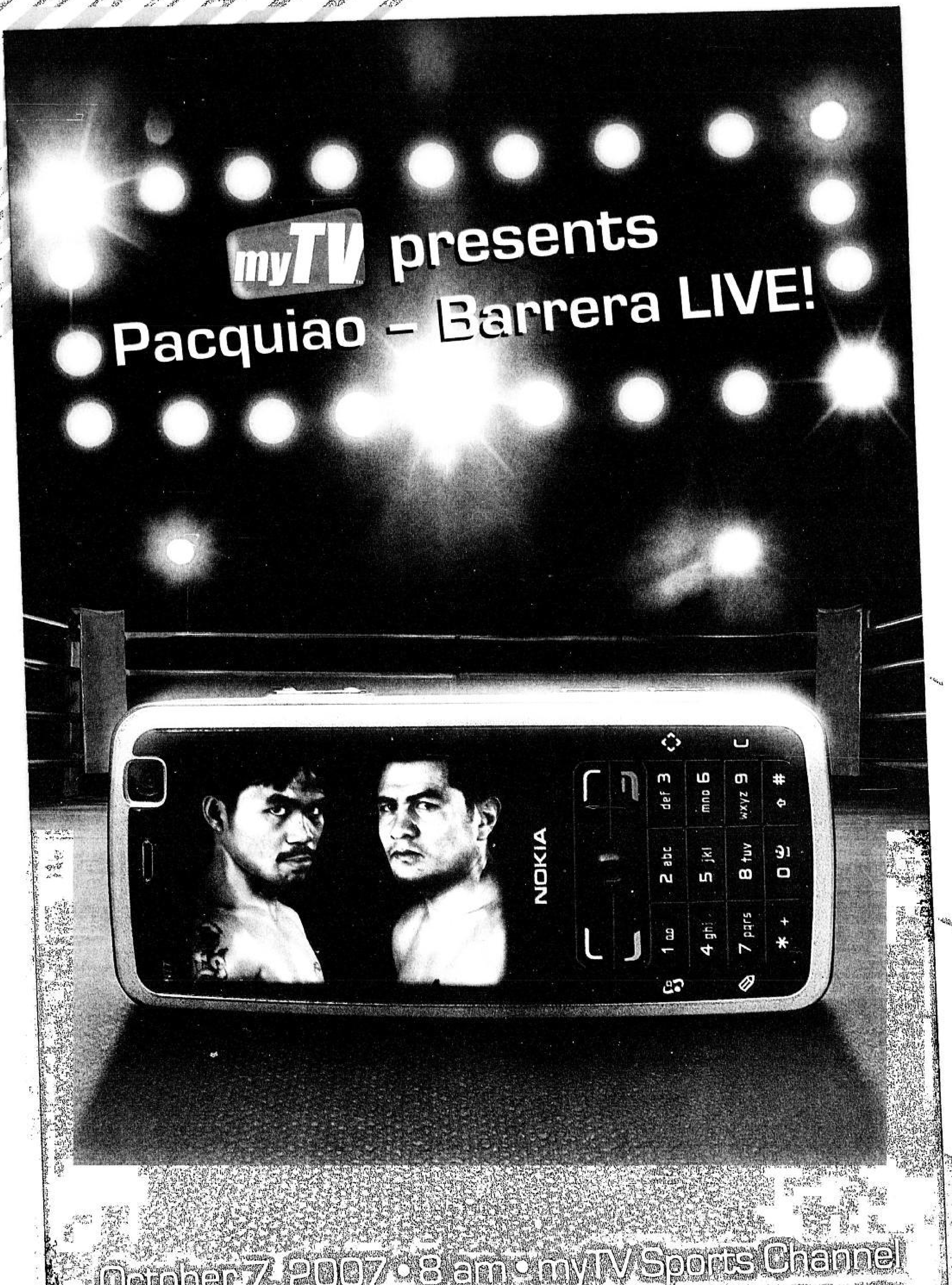
In the skeet event, Paul Brian Rosario was tops with 135, while Patricio Bernardo came in second with a 134. A far third is Gabriel Tong, with a 126.

Rosario, Bernardo and Tong will also see action in the Asian Clay Shooting Championship, which also serves as a tune-up tournament for the national team members seeing action in the Thailand SEA Games in December.

Gay Corral, chair of the Organizing Committee of the week-long event which will run until Oct. 31, said a total of twelve countries have already confirmed their participation in the tournament sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission, Coca-Cola, Nike and Renaissance Hotel.

The confirmed participants include entries from India, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Qatar, Japan, Korea, Pakistan, Chinese Taipei and the Philippines, which last hosted the event in 2000.

CARAG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Mother, mother, I am sick, get me to a mall very quick

A new idea takes dread out of a hospital visit

By Abigail L. Ho

MEGACLINIC in Megamall PHOTOS BY VON TAN GANA

A VISIT TO THE HOSPITAL IS something that many dread.

Just the thought of going into a building with predominantly plain white walls—with the smell of alcohol and other disinfectants hanging in the air, with the thought of syringes being used in its many rooms—is enough to send a chill down even a grown man's spine.

Popular TV series "General Hospital," "ER," "Grey's Anatomy" and "House" have all "humanized" the hospital setting, showing life beyond the doctors' white gowns and those intimidating (and scary) scalpels and needles.

But still, the dread of going to the hospital persists for many—which is probably why placing a hospital (sans the emergency rooms) within a shopping mall doesn't seem so farfetched.

The idea isn't at all novel, with many clinics, usually of the dermatological sort, calling home some of the country's shopping malls for years now. And then there are the clinics that cater to fields of medicine beyond dermatology. There are a lot of those in malls as well.

So what makes the DLS-STI Megaclinic so different?

One-stop shop

DELOS SANTOS

Its sheer size, for one. According to DLS-STI Megaclinic medical director Efren delos Santos, the clinic occupies a 2,100-square-meter area on the fifth level of the SM Megamall, housing rooms full of state-of-the-art equipment such as CT Scan and MRI machines—stuff usually found only in hospitals.

It also provides clinic space to doctors of almost all specializations, including general medicine, general surgery, dermatology, anesthesiology, obstetrics and gynecology, orthopedics, pediatrics, neurosurgery, urology, rehabilitation medicine and various sub-segments of internal medicine.

The Megaclinic also offers something that not many clinics, or even hospitals, in the country can claim to provide. Delos Santos relates that the Megaclinic features not only mainstream medicine but also alternative medicine, mostly Oriental in nature.

The Living Life Well Center found within the Megaclinic offers various methods of alternative medicine and comprehensive wellness programs, including acupuncture, reflexology, therapeutic massage, Chinese herbal medicine, chelation therapy and even Tai Chi and Qi Gong classes.

Individuals wanting to go into a wellness program or to try any treatment can first have consultations to determine which treatments are best for them.

The Megaclinic offers two ways of evaluating a person's health condition and needs: the integrative medical consultation involves evaluating a patient based on both Western and traditional Chinese medicine, while the automated reflexive diagnostic kinetic is a non-invasive method to

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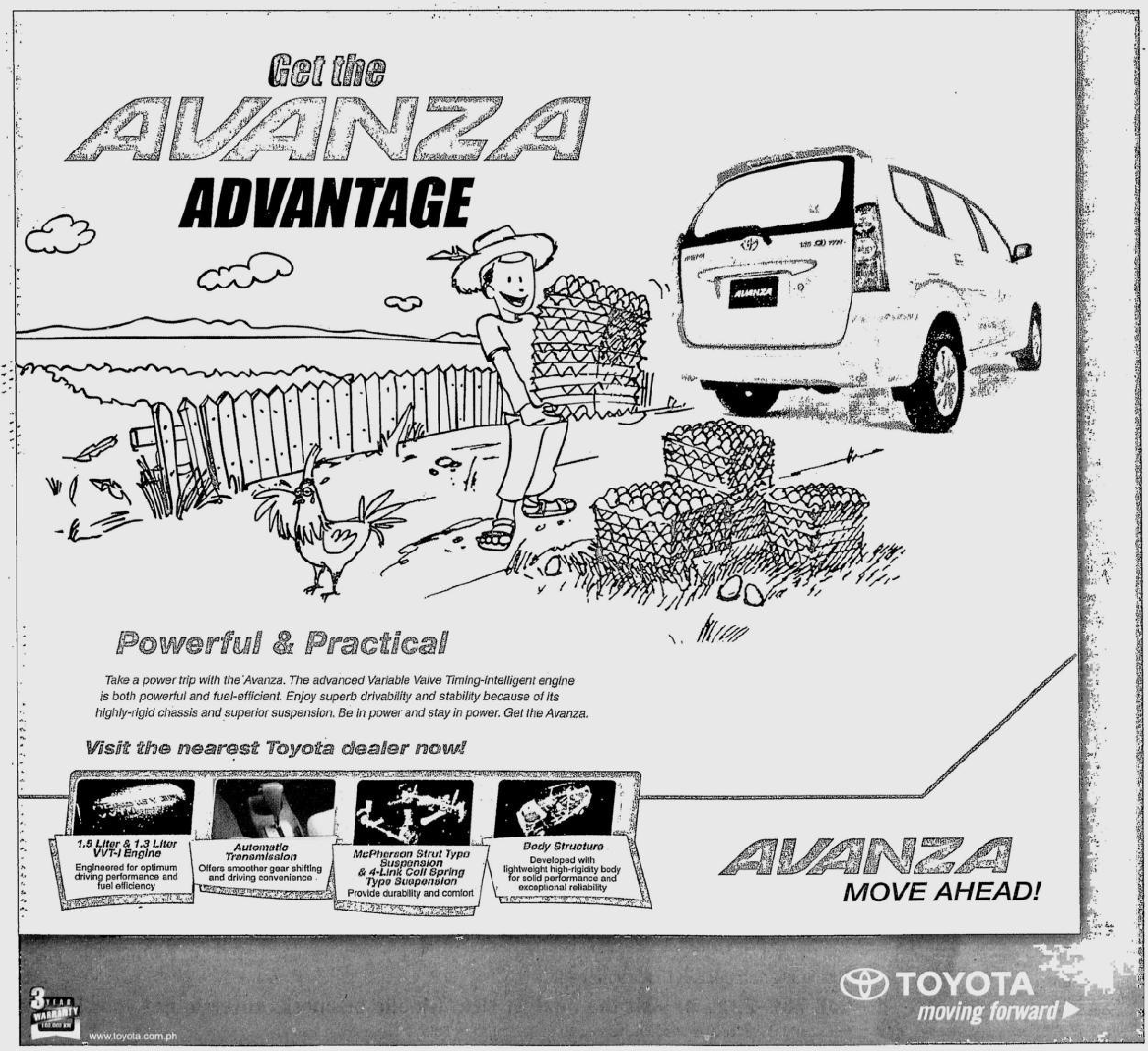

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Focus on patient outcomes

Pfizer recently hosted the 9th PRIME program to promote initiatives that improve the quality of life and better patient outcomes. PRIME stands for Progressive Research and Integrated Medical Education. Through this program, Pfizer provides a venue to communicate and raise awareness on pioneering value-added health programs. The annual event, held at the Shangri-La Hotel, showcased Pfizer's innovations in healthcare with new products and pioneering concepts and breakthroughs.

IDS Logistics' CSR

IDS Logistics Philippines and IDS Marketing Philippines have been busy lately with a community-based undertaking in line with their corporate social responsibility (CSR) program. Ramon H. Bathan, Country HR Manager of IDS Philippines, said the program, dubbed "Isang Dakilang Simulain" (One Noble Beginning), aims to give back to society what society has given to the organization as they pursue their business endeavors and their employees' personal growth. So far, the activities included a six-month supplemental feeding for the malnourished children of Sitio Paseo de Anemales in Barangay Santolan, Pasig City, and a volunteer program among its employees that has spawned, among others, a fund-raising drive for the victims of supertyphoons in Bicol last year. IDS Logistics Philippines and IDS Marketing Philippines are both local affiliates of the Li & Fung Group of Hong Kong.

The Bli

A LEADER

John C. Maxwell

I HAVE ALMOST DIED ON SEVERAL occasions. I'd like to blame these near-death experiences on others, but I suppose they might have something to do with me. Let me explain…

Anyone who has driven for a length of time in Atlanta can testify to the horrors of its traffic situation. I'm sure other cities can make the claim of worst traffic in America, but I can't imagine anyplace worse than Atlanta.

To complicate the problem, I wouldn't describe myself as a particularly patient person. In fact, my wife might describe me as downright impatient—and she would probably be right.

When in traffic, I've always subscribed to the bob-and-weave philosophy. If rampant lane changing can save me a car length or two, then I'll switch lanes like Liz Taylor switches husbands.

Unfortunately, there have been a few instances when I've not been diligent in checking my blind spot when shifting lanes. And, let me tell you, nothing jolts a person like the angry honking of a car horn only a few inches to his left or right!

Thankfully, I've been able to survive without crashing or receiving anything worse than a friendly wave of the middle finger from a fellow driver. Since my blind spot has nearly caused my death several times, I now pay extra attention to it. I double and triple confirm no cars are there before I merge into another lane.

Blind spots can wreck a leader's journey. In this edition of LW, I would like to illustrate one of the most common blind spots I have observed in leaders.

The Blind Spot—An area in the lives of people in which they continually do not see themselves or their situation realistically. This unawareness often causes great damage to the people and those around them.

Most every leader has a blind spot, in fact, all probably do. We are trapped in our own perspectives, unable to see the world completely from another person's point of view. We are absorbed in our world, caught in our present circumstances, consumed by selfish thoughts, and confined by our narrow experiences.

To illustrate, consider King George III of England's journal entry on July 4, 1776: "Nothing happened today." Of course, unbeknownst to King George, the American Declaration of Independence had been issued that day, and it would change the course of history.

One reason for our singular perspective can be attributed to our self-perception, or attitude toward self. As I wrote in the Lens Principle: Who we are determines how we

---

Mother, mother…

From page B1

provide comparative statistical information regarding a person's overall fitness based on the principles of traditional Chinese medicine.

"Alternative medicine is starting to pick up. The term 'alternative' is actually a misnomer since it doesn't really do away with the mainstream or conventional forms of medicine. I'd like to call it 'integrative medicine' as we incorporate alternative medicine with what's being practiced by mainstream doctors," Delos Santos explains.

More and more doctors are now embracing alternative medicine to augment their mainstream practice, he says, and more and more people are also seeing the benefits of both the conventional and the more traditional forms of healing.

Future plans

Delos Santos says the Megaclinic now gets an average of more than 300 patients during weekdays and more than 400 patients on weekends. And this is considering that the clinic has only been operating since February.

At the onset, he says the DLS-STI partnership had no intention of putting up such a big clinic as the initial plan was to have something that's just 1,000 square meters big.

"We weren't able to get the size that we wanted. We were reluctant at first to get the space that was offered to us because we thought it was too big. We also thought of renting out half of the space," he recalls.

"Then we just tried figuring out how we can fill up all that space. When we started, a lot of people wanted to join. I even lost my office space," he adds.

The DLS-STI partnership aims to expand horizontally, he says, and placing a fully equipped, state-of-the-art clinic inside a mall seems like a good idea.

Asked if there are plans to put up more Megaclinics within malls, even those outside of Metro Manila, he says: "We're doing well so far. We'll see what happens in the coming months."

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nd Spot

'S WAY

see others. A naive optimist may be blind to the less-than-ideal intentions of those around them. Oppositely, an eternal pessimist may be blind to the kindness of a coworker, instead suspecting ulterior motives.

A second cause of singular perspective comes from our tendency to judge ourselves based on intentions, while judging others by their actions. Such a bias allows us to cut ourselves slack and to justify our actions, because, after all, we meant well.

However, since we aren't able to see the motives of others, we evaluate them solely by their actions. We attribute shortcomings in their behavior to shortfalls in character without regard for their present circumstances, mood, or emotional frame of mind.

We are fully aware of our history, but ignorant of the background of others. For this reason, context is the third and final cause of a blinding singular perspective. Decisions we take make perfect sense to us given our beliefs and experiences, but they may surprise others who are not as familiar with us.

On the other hand, since we don't know the particulars of another person's childhood, past relationships, or prior involvements, we often have trouble conceiving why the person acts the way he or she does.

Checking your blind spot

As trite as it may sound, putting yourself in another person's shoes does open you to their perspective. To broaden your limited perspective, try to envision their opinions and feelings. Attempt to be aware of their motives and the values they hold dear.

Leaders avoid the blind spot of singular perspective when they seek to understand before seeking to be understood.

As I wrote in Winning with People, "The entire world, with one small exception, is composed of others." Followers are focused inwardly, and they wonder, "How will this affect me?" Conversely, leaders are focused outwardly, and they ask, "How will this affect others?"

Finally, leaders may avoid the blind spot of singular perspective by examining themselves before casting blame on others.

As Jesus of Nazareth taught, "Don't pick on people, jump on their failures, or criticize their faults—unless, of course, you want the same treatment. That critical spirit has a way of boomeranging. It's easy to see a smudge on your neighbor's face and be oblivious to the ugly sneer on your own," (Matthew 7:1-3, The Message).

THE WHITE ROOM, easily the favorite part of the office, employees get to make presentations here as well as shoot a few basketballs.

Office culture...

From page B4

ple can write on all the walls made of white boards, because at P&G, "we keep it simple."

The icing on the cake is the wellness alley, where the employees can take a quick break and have a 15-minute power nap in the sleep pod, breathe in pure oxygen at the oxygen bar, stretch their bodies in the yoga room, bring up the heart rate in the bicycle room or have a rejuvenating 30-minute foot spa.

Lafferty said it took some convincing before the P&G head office approved the concept, and only after he stuck his head out and took full responsibility for seeing the project through.

What won P&G over in the end is Lafferty's passion for making the P&G offices in the Philippines as conducive to creativity as possible since he believed that the right surroundings would make the employees that much more interested in coming in and doing their best.

He said it would be impossible to put a number and say that P&G would recover its investment, but just feeling that higher level of energy in the office is enough to convince him that the new office is doing what it should—give birth to new ideas.

"I want creativity and innovation, but how can you be creative when your environment does not stimulate that creativity? That's why we did this," Lafferty said.

Not to say that P&G was not doing well before the renovation. Lafferty said P&G in the Philippines has been growing decently, in pace with competition. It's just that he does not want a "decent growth." He wants faster growth, and he believes the only way to do that is to bring to the table more ideas that will blow away the competition. He believes that the new office with its cutting edge meeting rooms, wellness alley and a pantry with free coffee and even a basketball machine, is one such great idea.

"When you take care of people, the business will take care of itself," Lafferty explained.

e, Garci.

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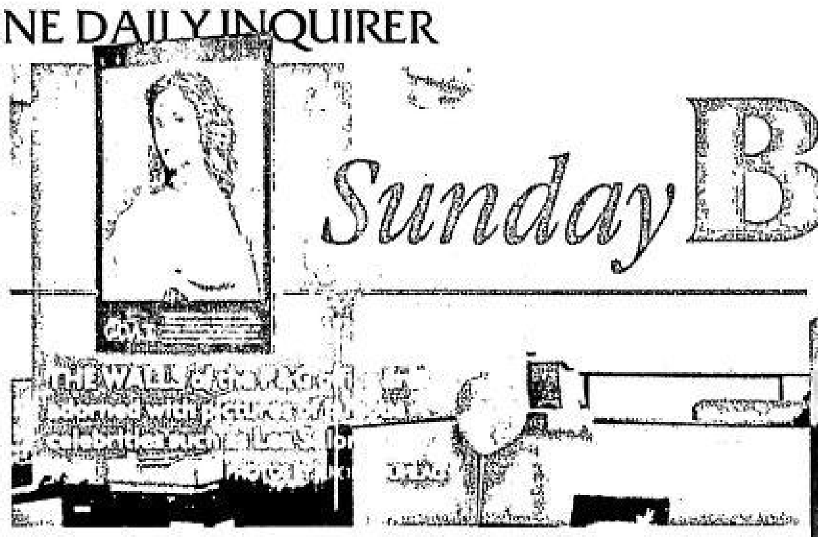

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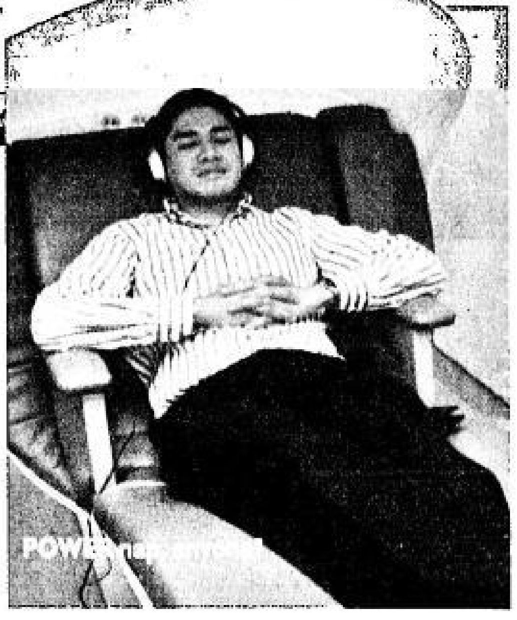


P&G HEADQUARTERS

Office culture on walls

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

P&G PHILIPPINES PRESIDENT JAMES M. Lafferty hates white rooms—they're bland and boring. Yet, most corporate offices have many of these white rooms because officials and employees are used to them and they do not offend anybody.

Neither, however, do they inspire creativity, and that won't do for Procter and Gamble, which relies heavily on breakthrough ideas to build some of the world's leading brands, such as Tide, Pantene, Head and Shoulders, Downy and Safeguard.

This is why Lafferty pressed on and invested as much as P30 million of P&G money to reconfigure the Philippine head office in Makati City, in a bid to unleash more radical ideas and forever get rid of the unimaginative white rooms.

LAFFERTY

After just 10 weeks, P&G's 300 employees came in to a totally new place of work that reflects the company's culture on its walls.

The new ceilings, for instance, have chain designs because, as Lafferty explained, all employees are part of a team, and each one affects another.

Then pictures of icons here and abroad deemed a GOAT or "greatest of all time," like hockey legend Wayne Gretzky, Olympic gymnast Nadia Comaneci and Broadway star Lea Salonga, hang on the walls to inspire employees to be a "goats" themselves.

But perhaps the greatest expressions of the new vigor permeating the P&G offices are the thematic meeting rooms, designed by the eager students of the Philippine School of Interior Design.

Lafferty said the students were given the license to unleash their creativity and energy based on key facets of P&G's culture.

P&G employees could not be happier with the result.

Step into the Everest room, for instance, and get a taste of what it must feel to be on top of Mt. Everest with the low temperature and painting of the summit of the world's tallest mountain. There are even action figures of climbers at the summit.

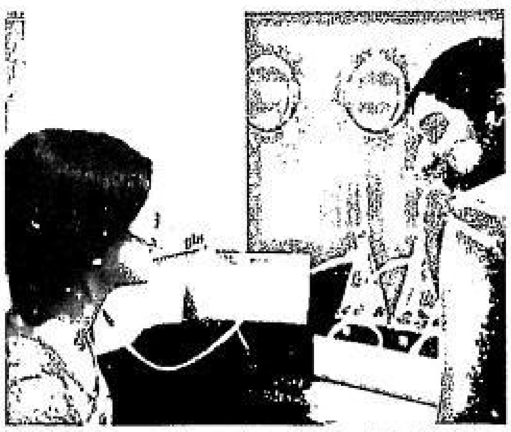
The room embodies P&G's belief that "we dare to succeed, and recognize that in doing so, we will sometimes fail."

The game room, on the other hand, where employees can come in and actually play cards or board games, symbolizes the multinational's value of making the office a fun place to work in.

This is in recognition of the fact that many employees spend more hours in the office than at home.

P&G also does have a white room, but it's far from the regular kind. In this room, peo-

OFFICE/ B3



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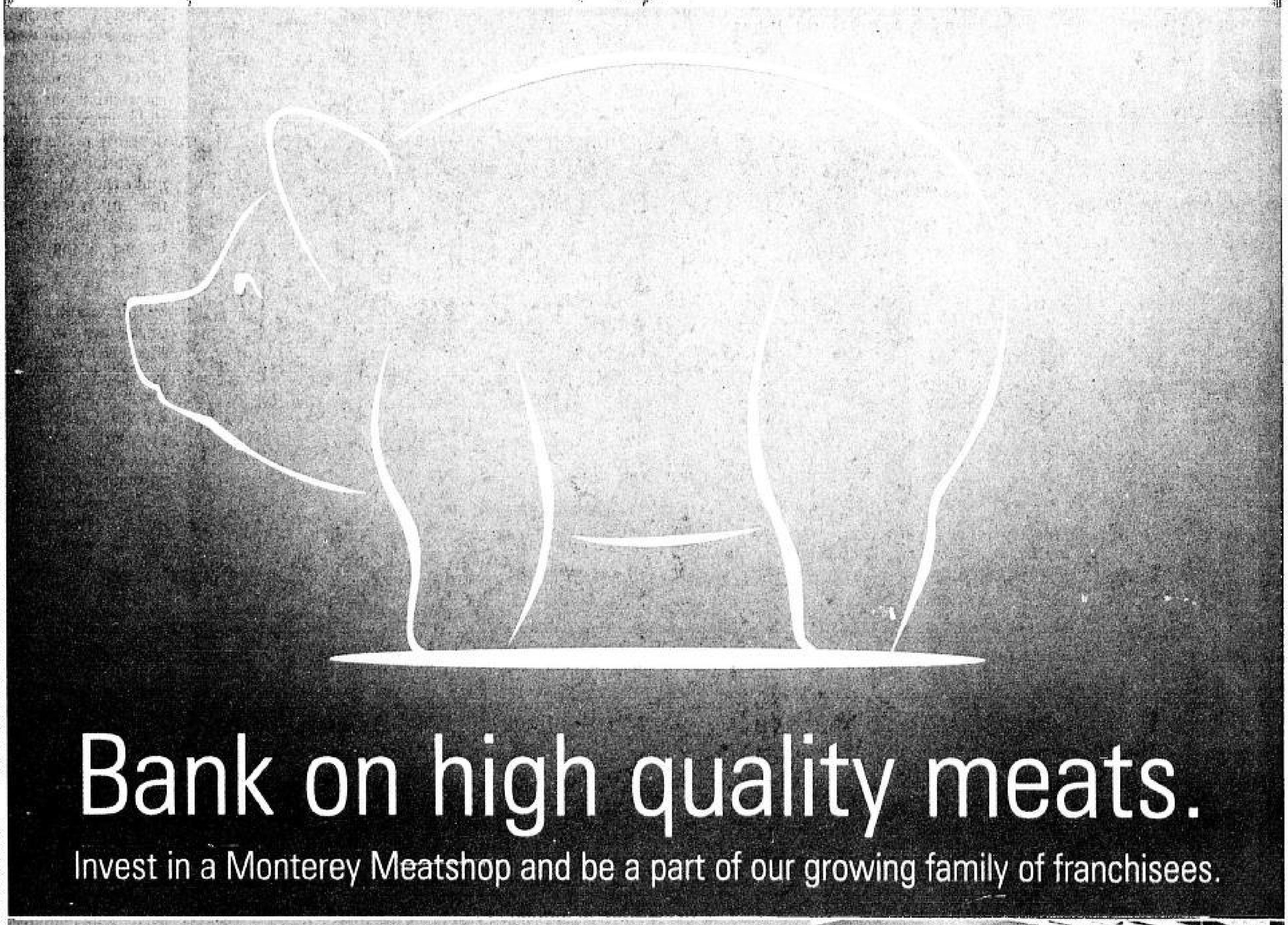

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Timepiece of the essence

Pequignet watches create timeless pieces

By Marlet D. Salazar

IT NO LONGER IS JUST A MERE TIMEpiece. A wristwatch has evolved into a fashion accessory which enables you to express yourself.

One of the most prestigious luxury brands of watches in Europe has come to Manila. Pequignet is a 30-year-old French watch brand company that was recently introduced in the Philippine market through Montré shops in Rustan's.

The timepieces are known for its elegance, creativity, and timelessness. One of the few remaining independent watchmakers in the world, Pequignet continues to create pieces that truly lasts a lifetime.

"We consider Pequignet as a trendsetter," said Jean-Paul Suchel, international sales director for Pequignet, "With our designs, we open new market segments and introduced pieces and innovations that nobody has done before."

Pequignet caters to both men's and ladies watches. It boasts of unique lines which exude character and identity: Mooréa, Massai, Cameleone, Sorella, and The Lady. All these collections embody French elegance with Swiss precision.

Moorea which was first introduced more than two decades is so far the best-seller and the most famous, according to Suchel.

"If you look at Moorea of 20 years ago, and you look at the same model now, you'll be baffled by the similarity and yet it still looks different," Suchel said. "It is a luxury brand and we want them to have that unique identity to last a long time."

Although Moorea maintains a certain amount of its original design, some modifications are done without sacrificing its spirit and identity.

> 'One of the few remaining independent watchmakers in the world, Pequignet continues to create pieces that truly lasts a lifetime'

The top-quality designs of Pequignet are evident in its interchangeable parts that transcend and capture time to achieve absolute infinity of creativity.

Caméléone, Sorella, The Lady, and Massai collections are all part of the watch line with interchangeable parts.

Caméléone is inspired by Art Deco. It has small and large sizes which suit the need of every lady. The bracelets are in different colors and embroidery. This collection also comes with a complete line of jewelry from pendant to earrings to ring.

Sorella is small in size and contemporary in shape and look. Sorella is one of the most precious ones as it is adorned with diamonds.

The Lady is also contemporary in shape. It is created in a much bigger size to appeal to a younger generation. It is surrounded by diamonds and colored stones.

Massai, on the other hand, is a cross between an ethnic item of jewelry and a highly seductive watch among the young. The unique design makes it both a timepiece and a bracelet. It molds itself on the wrist along its gentle and drawn curves.

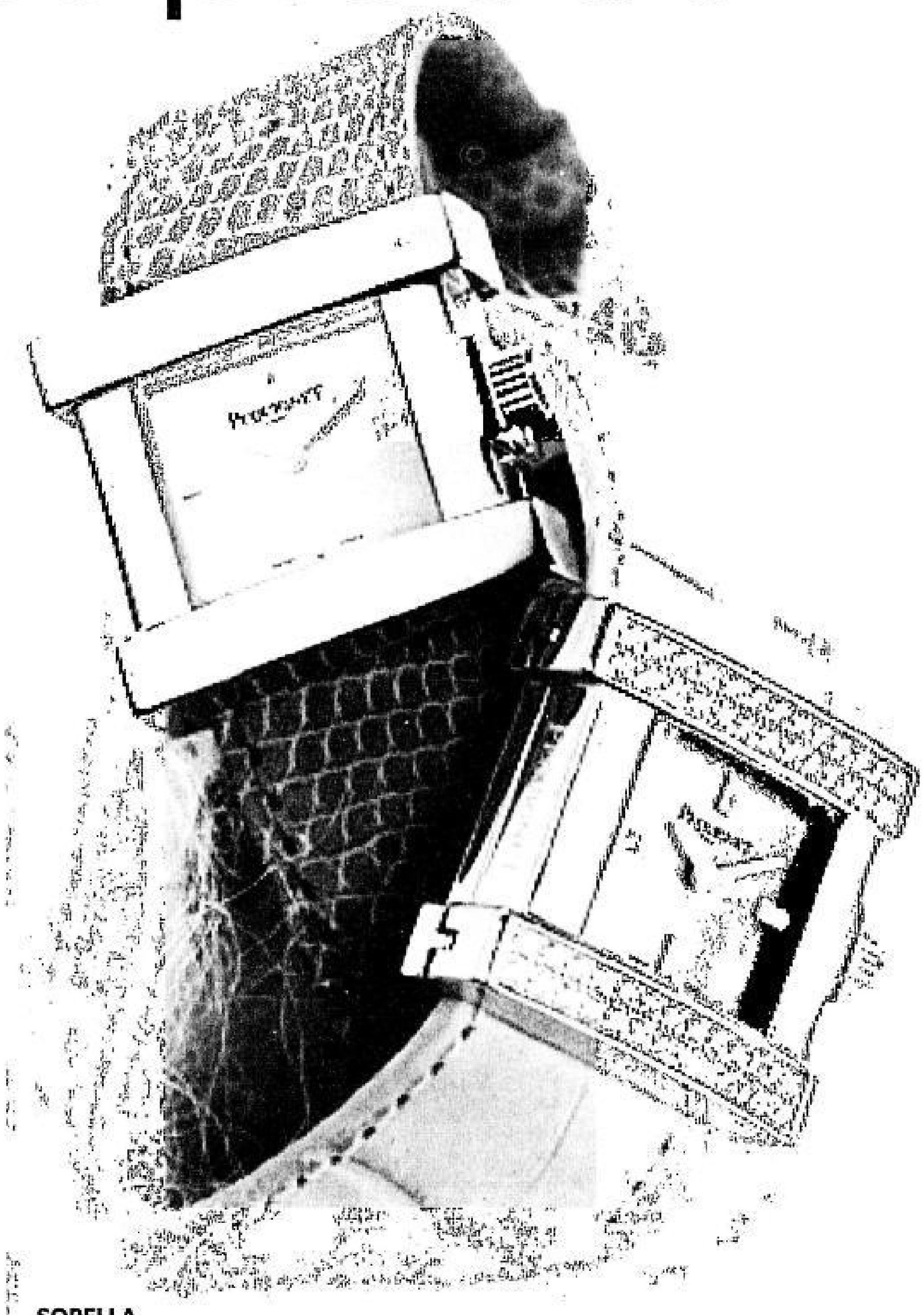
Most of the collections use Mother of Pearl dials set with non-reflective sapphire glass.

"Pequignet is the first watchmaker in the world to use diamonds and stainless steel," Suchel said. "Stainless steel is a fantastic material as far as durability is concerned."

The company according to Suchel only uses authentic materials. If the watch is colored yellow, buyers are assured that it is solid gold; if it is white, it is high-quality stainless steel.

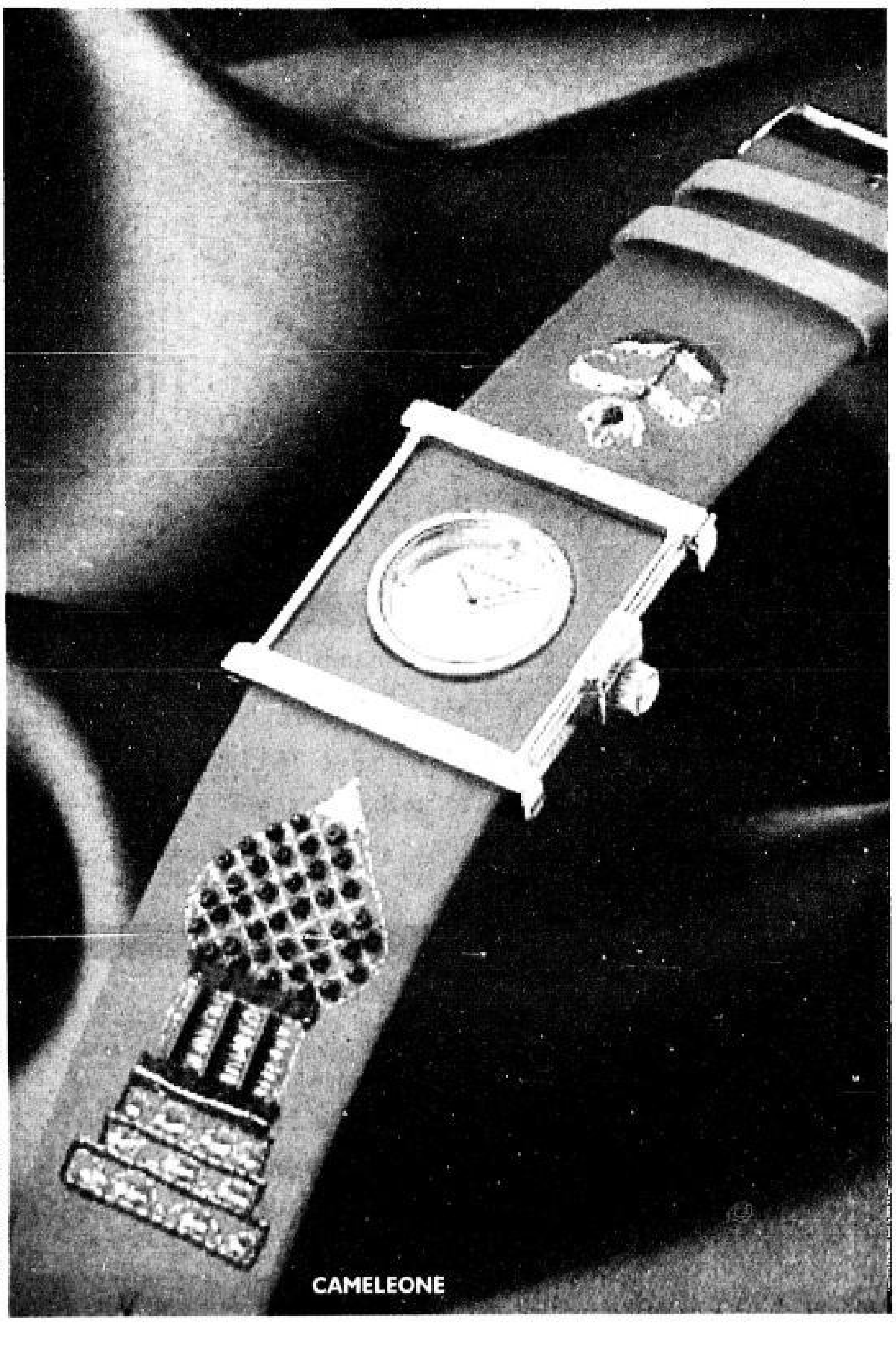
"We give so much importance on the best quality that we can, that is why we don't plate; these are all solid materials," he said.

Pequignet is founded by Henry Pequignet in Morteau, France, the cradle of watch companies in the world. It has garnered several awards because of its originality and creativity. It has continuously insisted on creating timepieces that can go with any look and at any time.

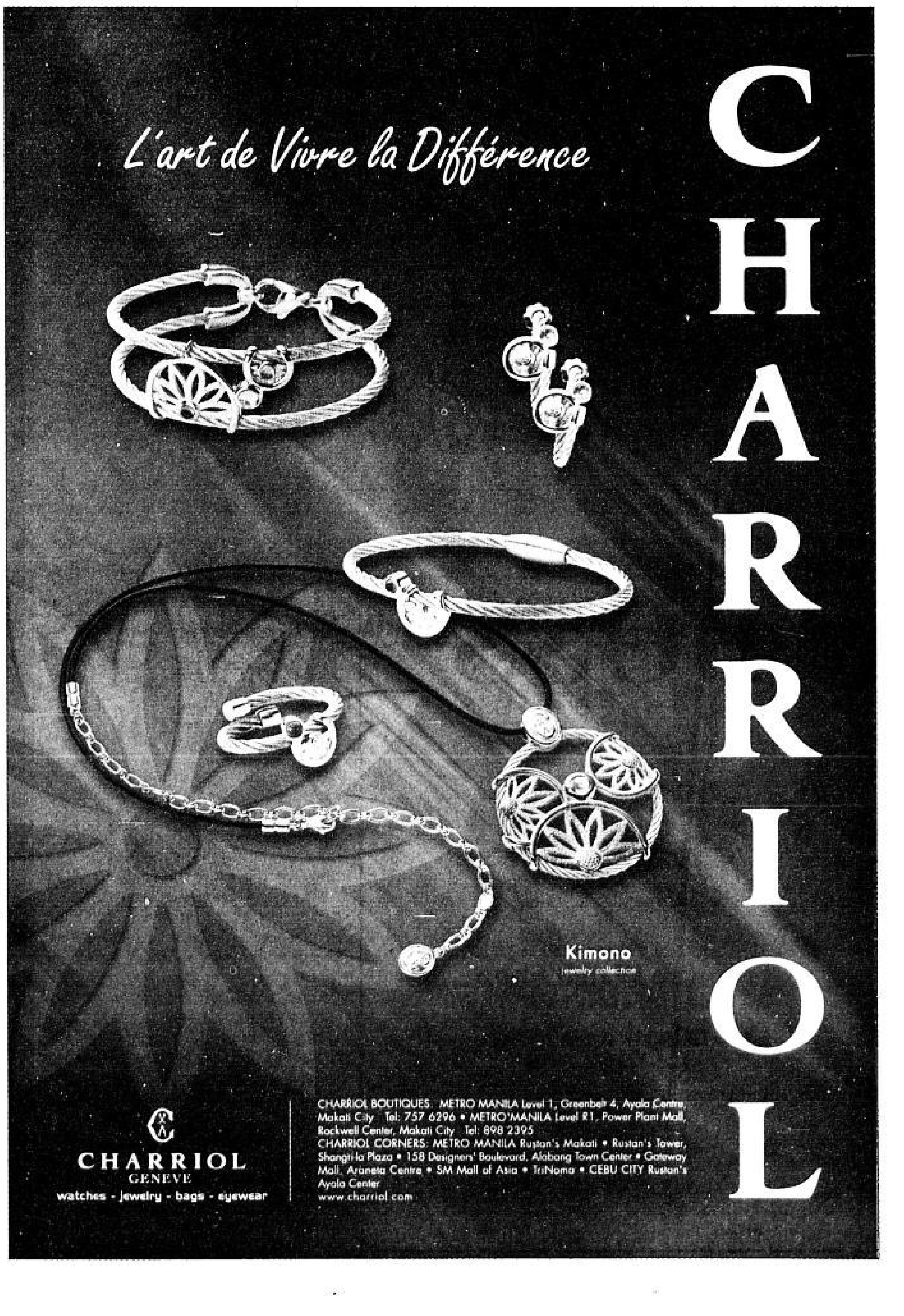


SORELLA

MOORÉA Gent's Collection



CAMELEONE



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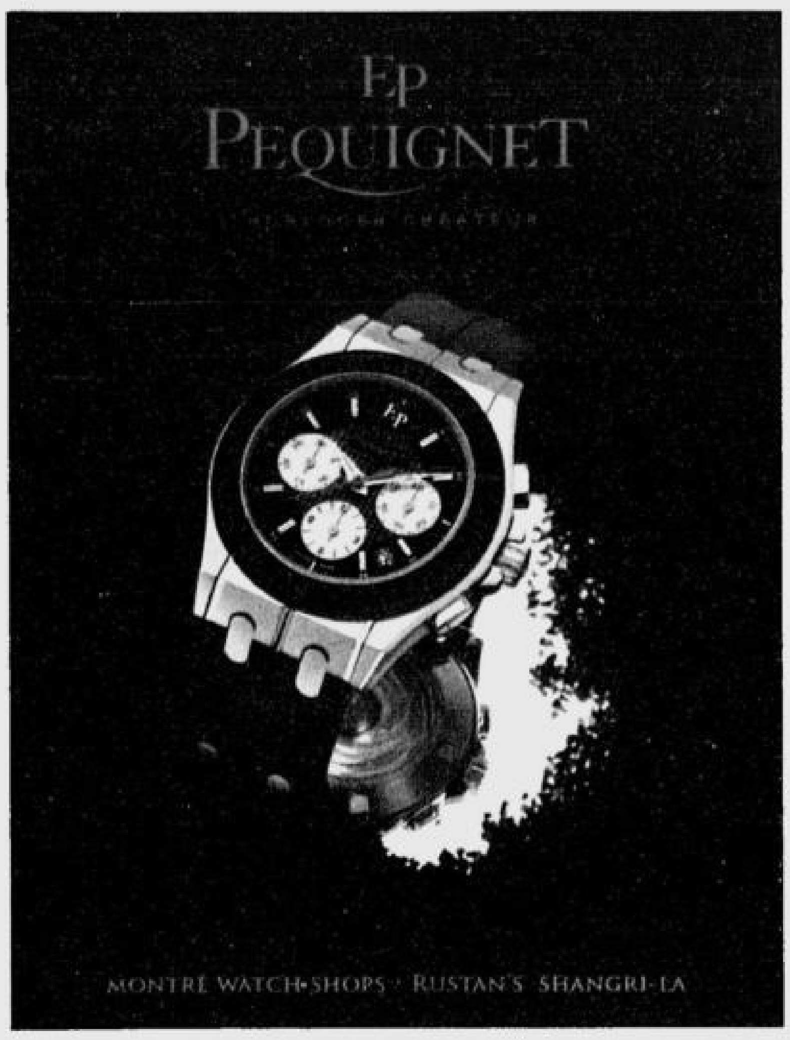

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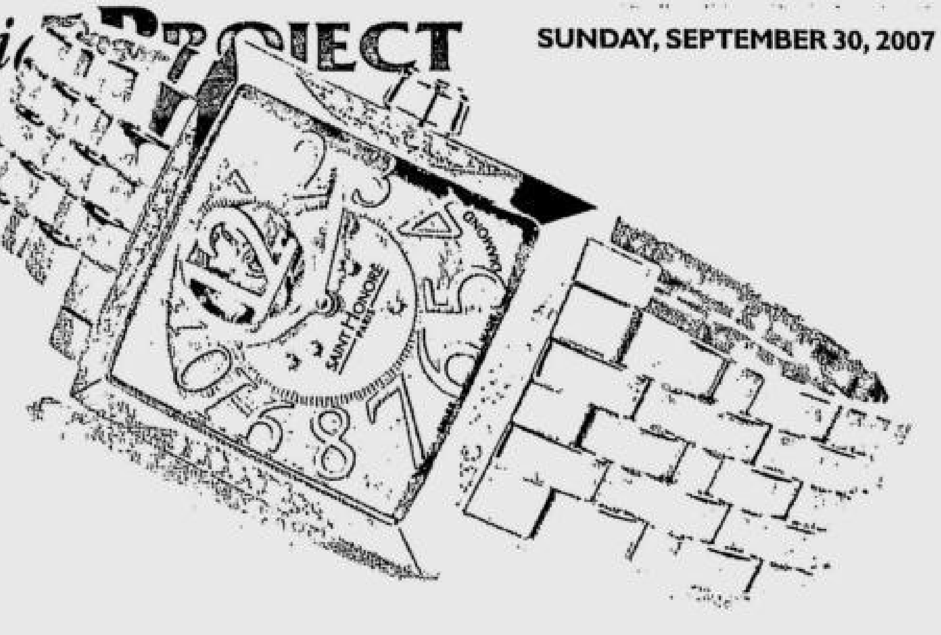


Saint Honore
Orsay Carree Medium - Automatic Seduction

Crazily Chic, with its monogram that rotates like a Tourbillon, Orsay Carree Medium takes its inspiration directly from the Saint Honore <<Tourbillon 1885>> haute couture line. Our gaze is drawn into the depths of the pearlescent reflections of the dial, where diamond-studded number spin and whirl. This Saint Honore range feminine bestseller is enhanced by an Open Balance automatic version which will delight the ever-increasing numbers of mechanical watch enthusiasts. Gold plated 18k with 24 diamonds, the minutes pass, the seconds tick by and the monogram provides the ultimate pleasure in watching the time pass.

P110,500

Available at Rustan's Shangrila, Rustans Gateway and Montre Watch Shops

Hugo Boss
Black Line

The Boss Black line comes up with interesting pieces for the ladies, this time in gold. Both models have 2-hand quartz movement with a sunray texture dial.

The jewelry looking bangle watch is both sleek and clean, it also comes in all silver bangle with matching silver face.

Meanwhile, the very feminine round modern case has a soft and fluid mesh bracelet with jewelry clasp. It is also available in variations of berry, silver and black face.

P22,550 (round bezel)

P24,550 (bangle type)

Available at Montre Podium, Montre Mall of Asia, and Montre The Block

Rado
Blue Fascination

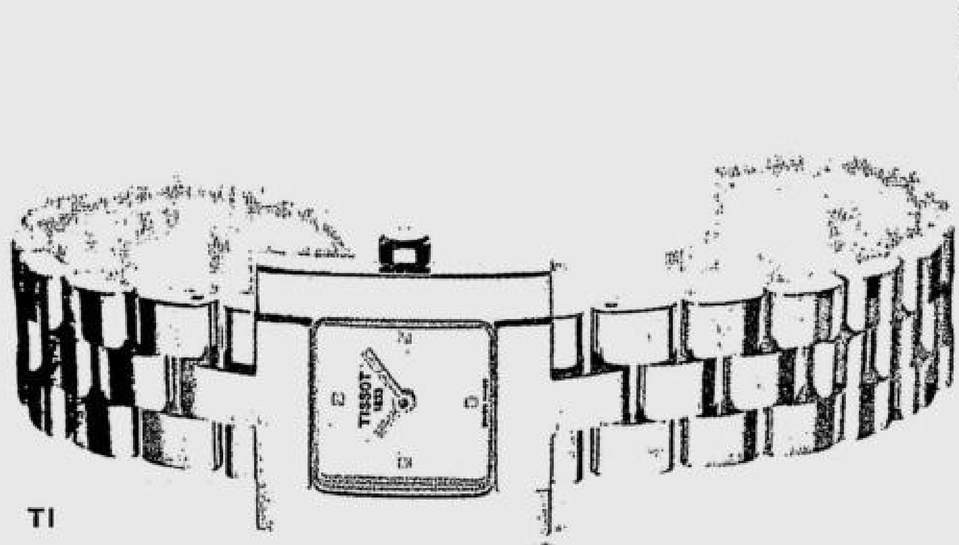
Enhanced by exquisite subtlety and loving attention to details, the Rado Coupole 'Blue Fascination' is a bracelet incarnated as a watch that is unequalled in exclusivity and worth. Sparkling and pure in form, the hands - inset with diamonds - stand out on the deep-sea blue dial. The exceptional bracelet unites brilliant blue sapphire disks with diamond-inlaid intermediate elements. The case - centerpiece of the watch - the crown and the folding clasp are made from solid 18-carat gold (yellow or white).

This watch is predestined to grace the wrists of sophisticated women who will cherish the distinctiveness and singularity of this dream come true. Rado has succeeded in creating a unique watch -for unique occasions and unique wearers.

Model No. R153.8172.6.020
(Yellow Gold) P 1.7M

R153.8173.6.020
(White Gold) P 1.9M

Available only at Rado Shop Manila - Glorietta 3 Ayala Center Makati



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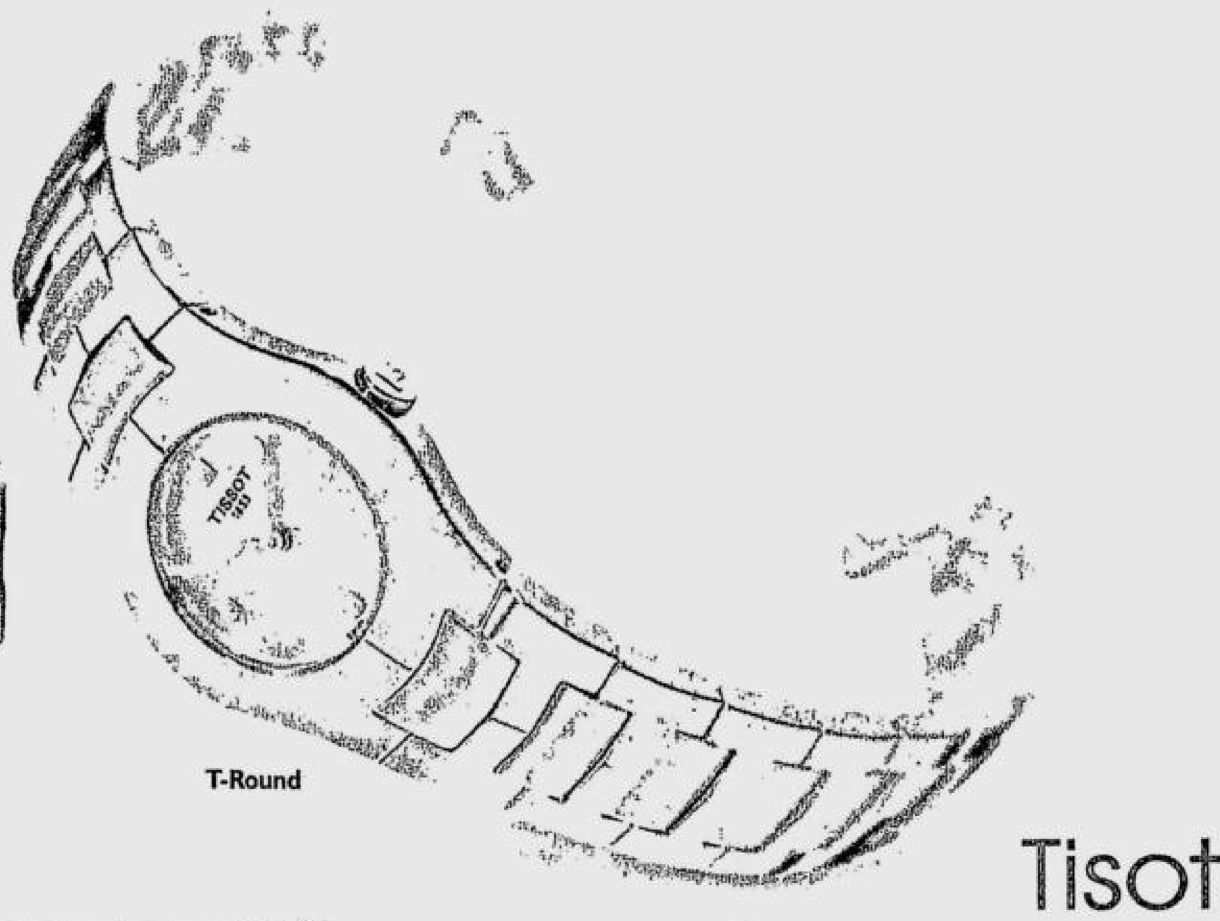

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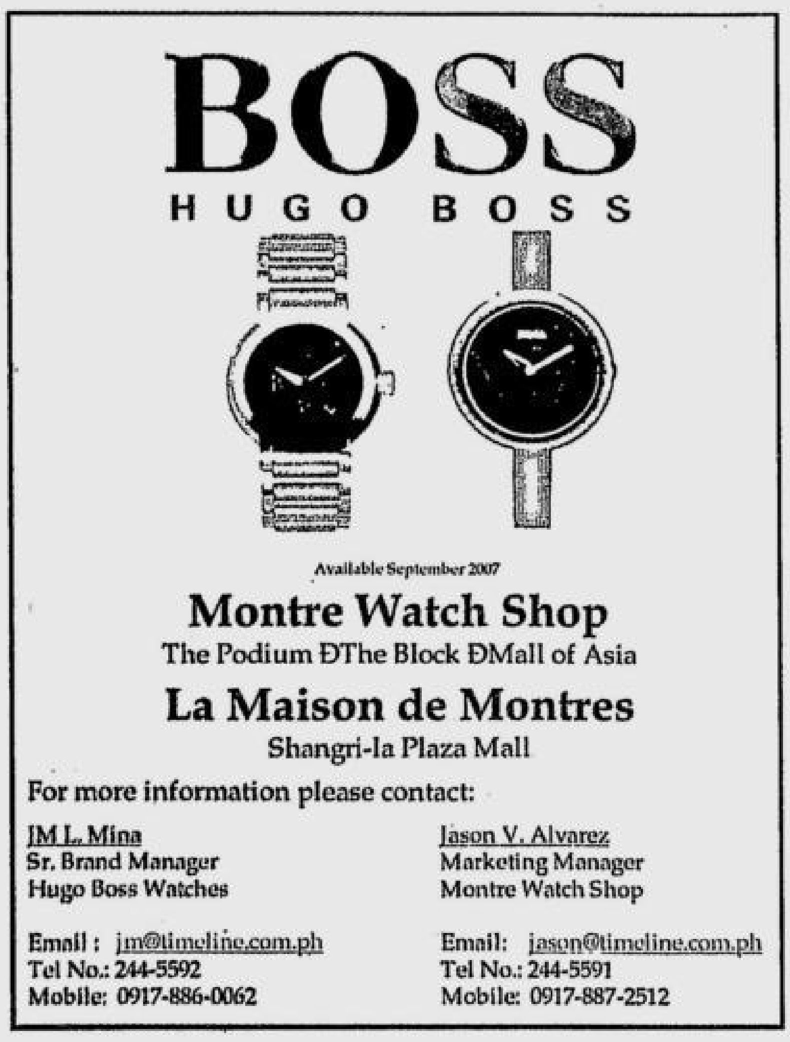

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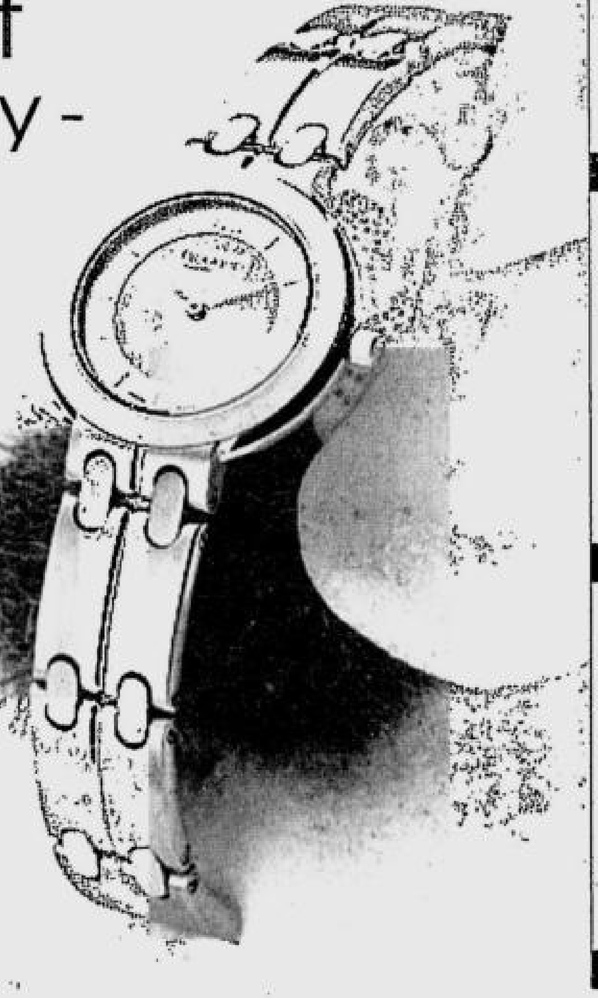
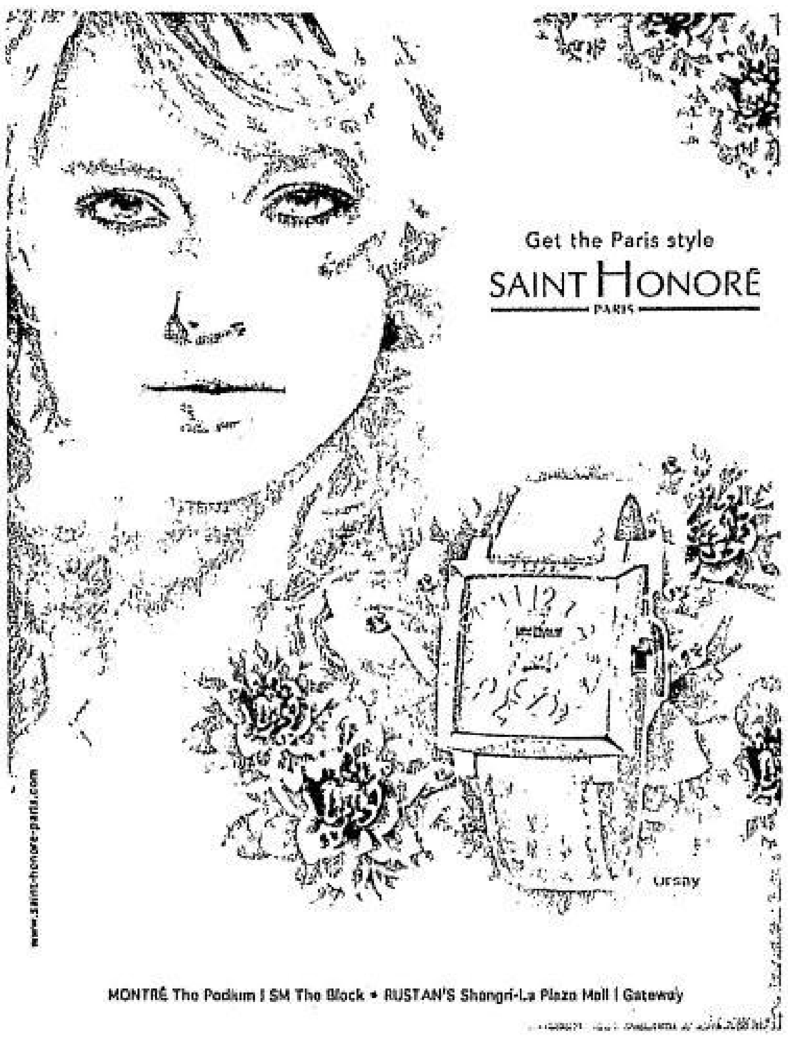
Pequignet
Moorea Lady - Extra Flat

Famous for its strongly identifiable bracelet link, the Moorea collection has maintained its consistent success since 1984. Here, sophistication meets up with sobriety, thereby creating a model untouched by time and fashion. A luxury brand that combines French sense of design and flair and Swiss excellence, Pequignet recognizes the need for lasting timepieces. One of its collections Moorea has been awarded the Cadran d'Or (Golden Dial award) in the prestige and luxury category. Famous for its strongly identifiable bracelet link, the Moorea collection has maintained its consistent success since 1984. Here, sophistication meets up with sobriety, thereby creating a model untouched by time and fashion.

P95,900

Available at Rustan's Shangri-La, and Montre Watch Shops

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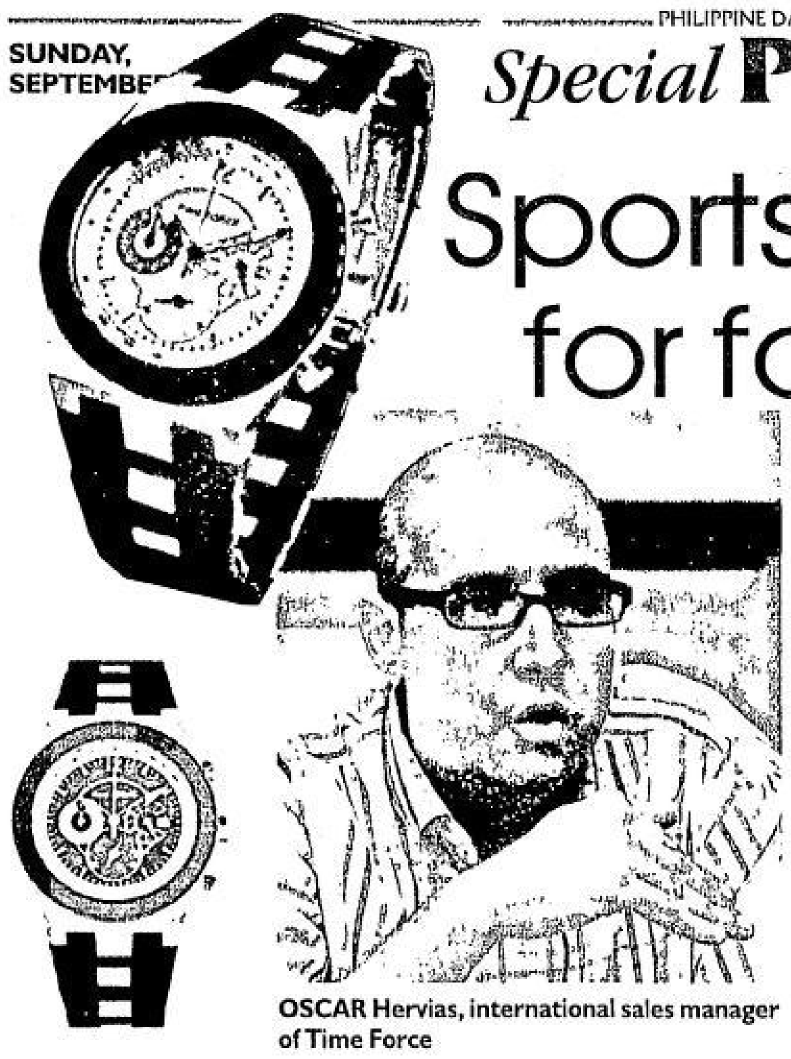
Sports watches go for fashion trends


OSCAR Hervias, international sales manager of Time Force

By Raquel P. Gomez

THE TIMES HAVE REALLY CHANGED FOR the watch industry as more timepieces are adapting the colors and trends en vogue.

Time Force, a well known watch brand in Spain and in the UK, has produced product lines whose color combinations reflect the fashionable colors in effect today. Time Force Gasol timepieces for men have the classic look of steel but combined with pink gold and wide black straps for men. Its ladies watches also carry the pink gold and yellow gold combinations with steel and black. Twister models come in shiny colors of red, orange, and black.

Gulf collection reflects electric blues, while Time Force fantasy collection possesses furry leathers. Time Force Status line looks expensive with its classical and sporty design.

Oscar Hervias, international sales manager of Time Force, says the colors white and black are very much in fashion in the watch industry and he adds that spring and summer colors of purple and blue presented in recent fashion shows will be seen in upcoming Time Force timepieces.

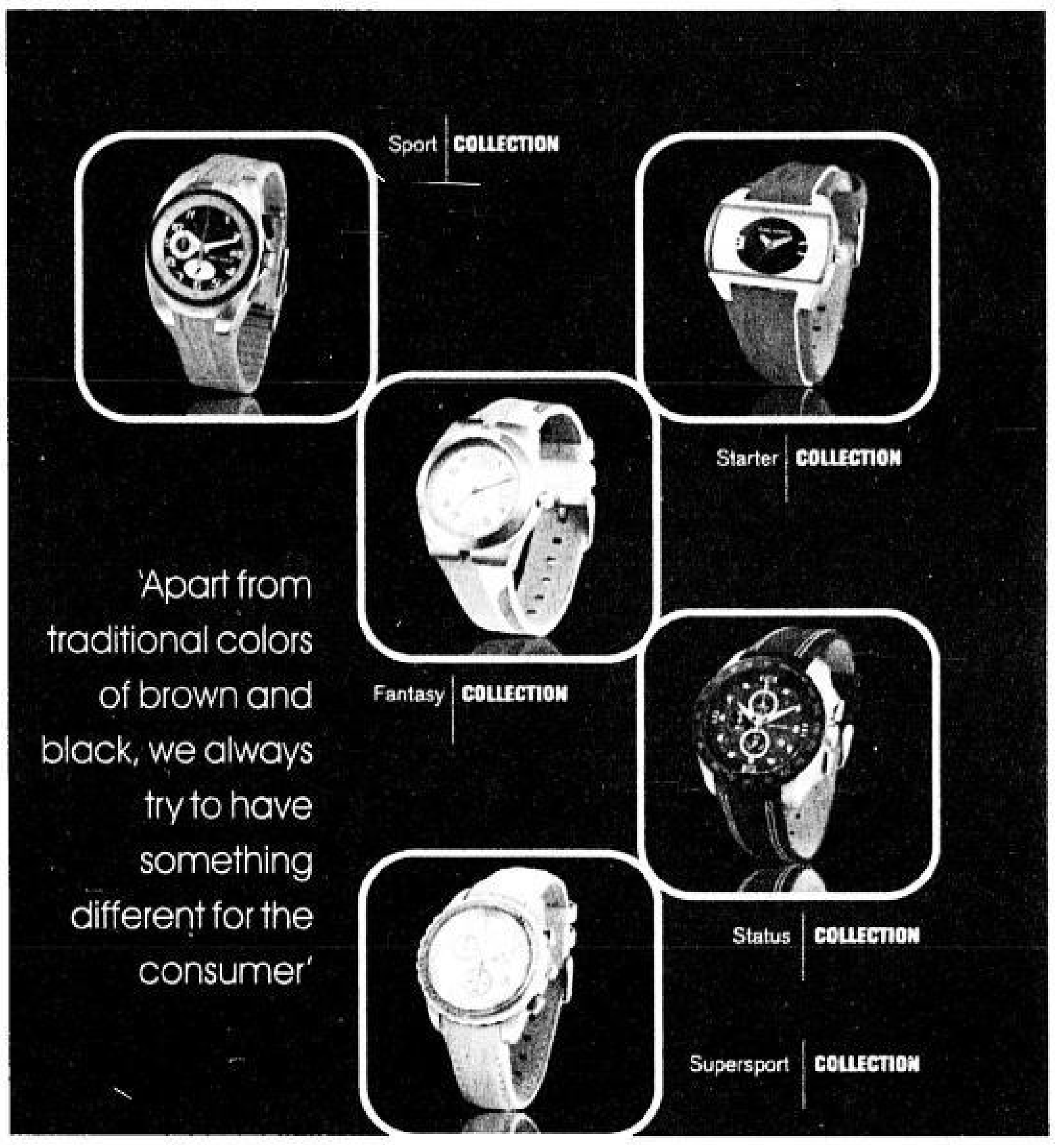
"Apart from traditional colors of brown and black, we always try to have something different for the consumer," says Hervias. "Time Force has the essence of the high end brands but with a reasonable price. Everything was taken into consideration in the manufacturing of the product."

Positioned in the watch market as a "sports watch with a design touch," Time Force highlights freshness, innovation and avant-garde design. In fact, the company, which is part of the Valentin Group in Spain, has in its creative fold a Swiss design team that travels to different fashion shows to take a peek into upcoming fashion trends which will eventually be incorporated into the design of the watches.

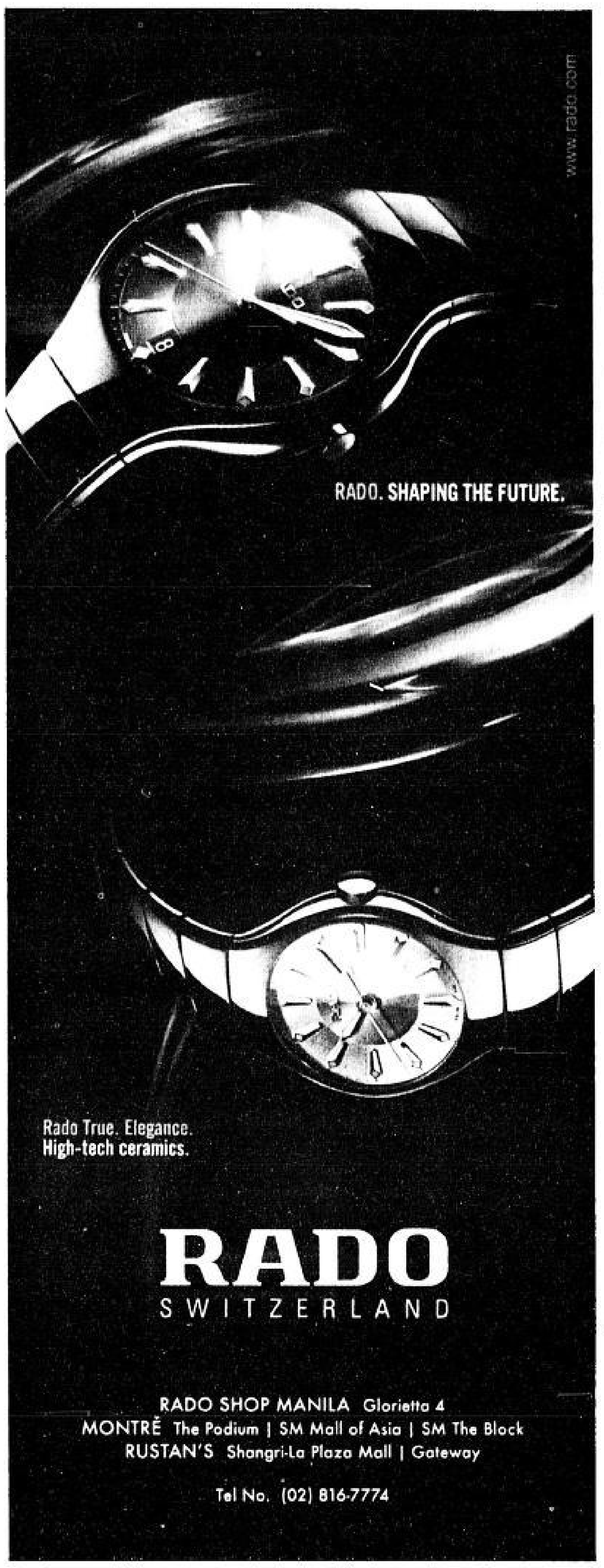
To boost the brand's presence in the international market, Time Force recently welcomed to its team international top tennis player Rafael Nadal and top basketball player Pau Gasol as ambassadors of the young watch brand.

Hervias says the trend today in watch purchase reflects the attitudes of the young set who identify strongly with athletes. He says every Time Force timepiece caters to the "individuality" of the individual.

Time Force is part of the Valentin Group in Madrid Spain. The family-owned company has a long tradition in watch making that started in the 1960s. The company owns production plants in Hong Kong, Switzerland and Spain. The Time Force brand is currently being distributed in 25 countries.



'Apart from traditional colors of brown and black, we always try to have something different for the consumer'



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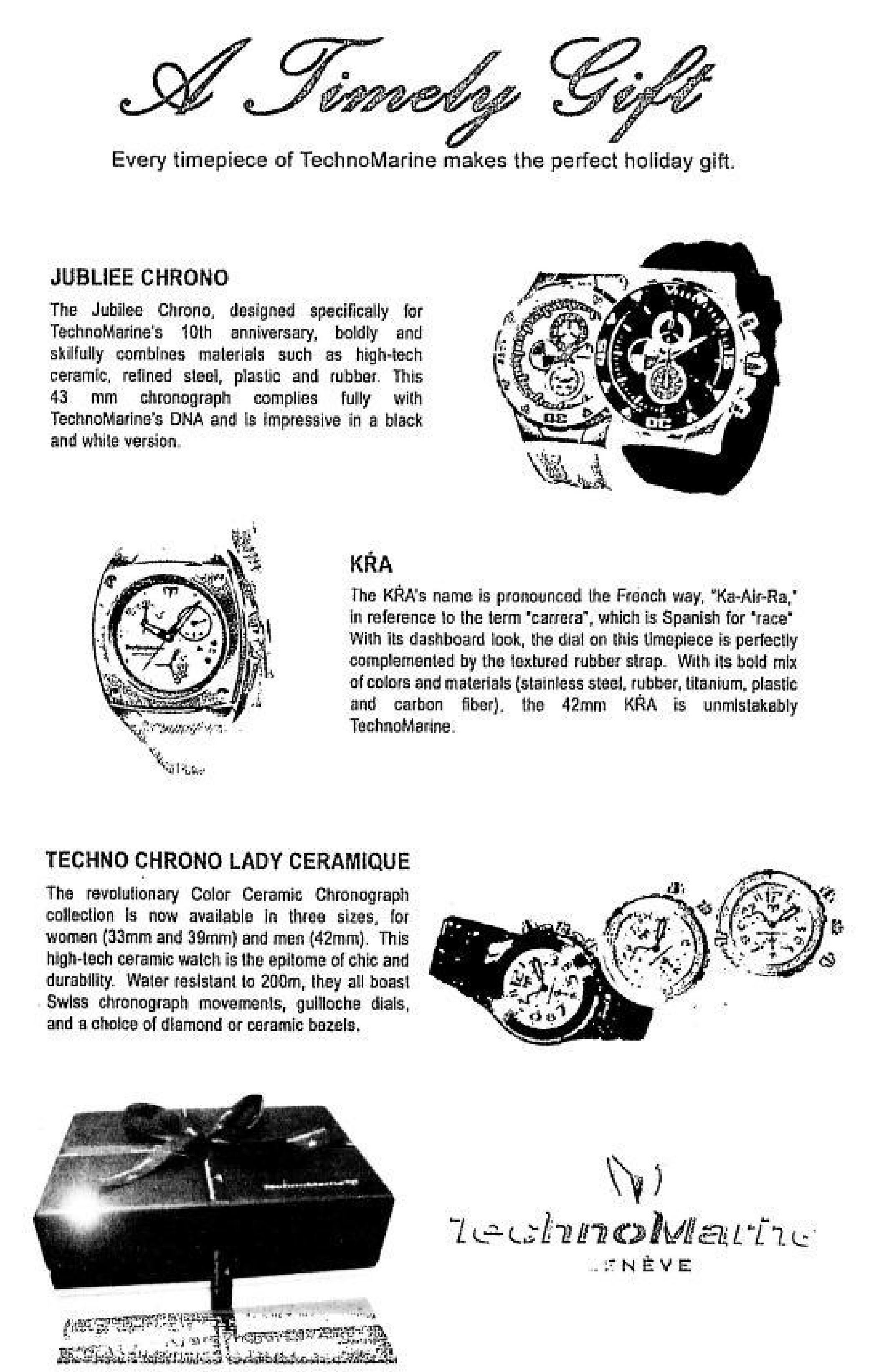

A Timely Gift

Every timepiece of TechnoMarine makes the perfect holiday gift.

JUBLIEE CHRONO

The Jubilee Chrono, designed specifically for TechnoMarine's 10th anniversary, boldly and skilfully combines materials such as high-tech ceramic, refined steel, plastic and rubber. This 43 mm chronograph complies fully with TechnoMarine's DNA and is impressive in a black and white version.

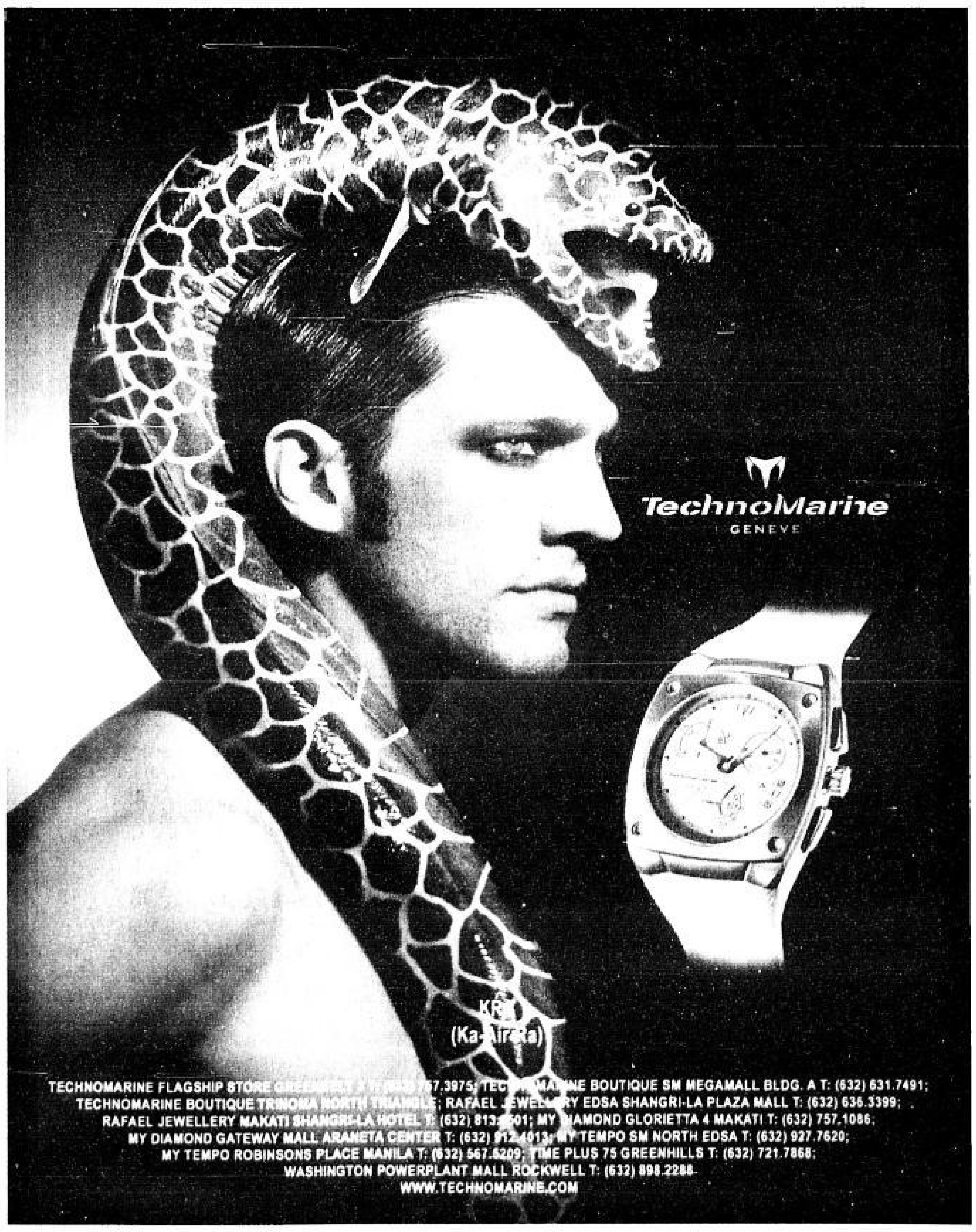
KŔA

The KŔA's name is pronounced the French way, "Ka-Air-Ra," in reference to the term "carrera", which is Spanish for "race" With its dashboard look, the dial on this timepiece is perfectly complemented by the textured rubber strap. With its bold mix of colors and materials (stainless steel, rubber, titanium, plastic and carbon fiber), the 42mm KŔA is unmistakably TechnoMarine.

TECHNO CHRONO LADY CERAMIQUE

The revolutionary Color Ceramic Chronograph collection is now available in three sizes, for women (33mm and 39mm) and men (42mm). This high-tech ceramic watch is the epitome of chic and durability. Water resistant to 200m, they all boast Swiss chronograph movements, guilloche dials, and a choice of diamond or ceramic bezels.

TechnoMarine
GENÈVE



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Editor Aries Espinosa

Sponsors sign MOA for 20th Ad Congress

THE FINANCE/WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE OF THE 20TH Philippine Advertising Congress led by over-all chair Yoly V. Ong, finance co-chairs Inez Reyes and Malu Vasallo, Matec Villanueva of administrative committee and Jun Nicdao of PR and publicity committee recently signed a memorandum of agreement with its event sponsors. The signing, which took place at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Conference Center in Makati City, was participated in by the following: Rene Reinoso and Pepito Olarte, Philippine Daily Inquirer; Lucien Dytioco and Jay Sarmiento, The Philippine Star; Cathleen de los Santos, Jollibee; Migel Ramos and Sandeep Khana, Nokia Philippines; Soliman Villamin and Joyce Villamin, Proserv; Byron Lat, E-Copy/Sharp; Angel Guerrero, Adobo Magazine; Donald Patrick Lim, Jay Chiu, and Elaine Uy, Yehey; Jane Albito and Marivic Ang, Kodak Philippines; Joveelynn See and Mark Acosta, Universal Robina Corp; and Carla Fernandez and Faye Babar, Air-21. The 20th Ad Congress, themed 'The New Order', happens at the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center from Nov. 21 to 24.

The 1st Int'l Farm Summit

UPHOLDING ITS COMMITMENT TO provide a helping hand to animal raisers in the country and to partner with the industry in improving swine raising technologies, Univet Nutrition and Animal Healthcare Company (Unahco) will host the 1st International Farm Summit on Oct. 3, at 2 in the afternoon at the Blue Leaf, Mackinley Rd., Makati City.

Gathering commercial farms, product manufacturers and distributors together, the summit will concretize Unahco's desire of improving and growing the swine-raising industry and seriously targeting the commercial farm segment by creating a venue for learning and trading of new and advance trade practices in the animal industry.

Aside from its formal foray into the commercial farm segment, the 1st International Farm Summit will also serve as the formal announcement of the transformation of Univet, Thunderbird and Sarimanok (UTS) into Unahco as it unveils its new AVP to delegate commercial farm owners, manufacturers and distributors.

Global issues and concerns that are affecting the local swine industry such as nutrition, genetics and infection will be discussed by experts from Unahco's international partners in three separate forums within the summit.

Among those invited to talk are Mr Henri Callet, marketing and export manager of Ceetal Laboratories, Mr Max Waldo, president of Waldo Farms USA and chairman of the board of Waldo Genetics Phils and Mr Nice Guy, nutrition expert from Alltech, USA.

Experts in the industry, Dr. Ariel V. Macasaet, senior extension veterinarian of UNAHCO will tackle the swine raising industry in the country and Mr Ryan Von R. de Leon, senior nutritionist for Sarimanok Feeds Company will talk on the various formulation of feed products, its designs specific, concentrates, basemixes, premixes and products development.

It is expected that commercial farm owners who will attend the summit will be equipped with knowledge and insights from the speakers as well as valuable exposure to new products that will help improve their swine and poultry operations.

A Yorkshire breed, a fabulous Samsung LCD TV and a lot of surprise gift items will be given away to lucky delegates.

BITS Clips

Discover Josh Groban with Nokia Nseries

JOSH GROBAN IS SET TO INDULGE MANILA WITH HIS voice as he takes his Awake World Tour to our local shores. Co-sponsored by Nokia Nseries, Josh Groban's Awake concert is the only Asian leg in his world tour - making it an event that should not be missed! Nokia gives you a chance to be part of this once in a lifetime event and discover the magical voice of Josh Groban. Log on to www.nokia.com.ph and join the raffle. Lucky winners stand to win a pair of VIP tickets and five pairs of balcony tickets to Josh Groban's Awake Concert on Oct. 17 and 18 at the PICC. Promo runs from Sept. 26 to Oct. 12. Raffle draw will be on Oct. 12 at 6 p.m.

NGO, foundation seminar

LEARN THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. These and other specialized topics will be discussed during the Setting Up and Managing Effectively an NGO or Foundation seminar from 1 to 5 p.m., Oct. 24, Banahaw Room, Legend Hotel, 60 Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City. Individuals, existing NGOs, church based organizations, cooperatives, foundations, LGUs, and corporate organizations are invited to attend the seminar. For details and early bird registration, contact Tritium Knowledge Center Publishing at tel. no. 531-0084 or CP: 0919-2299777, 0919-2299780, and 0915-7804379 or make inquiries at tritium@pldtdsl.net or tkcp_ph@yahoo.com. TKCP is the publisher and distributor of the resource books: Proposal Writing Guidebook, 2nd edition and the Directory of International Funding Organizations, NGOs, Corporate Donors, and Relief Agencies, Revised Edition.

APO revival concert

LUCENA CITY IS ANTICIPATING WITH EXCITEMENT THE coming of The APO Hiking Society in a big revival concert on Oct. 6 (Saturday) at 7:30 p.m. at the huge Quezon Convention Center, Lucena City. The music of The APO has spanned several generations for their universal appeal and strong messages. Their revival album has topped the local charts in no time at all. Many of their songs have been remade by popular local bands like Parokya ni Edgar, True Faith, Kamikaze, and more with equal zeal and acceptance. This major concert is brought to you by Calayan SurgiCentre, Arthro, Mang Inasal, and Pepsi. Tickets are at P200, P400, P600 and P800 only. For inquiries, call the ticket hotlines at (042)373-7146 or text 0917-505-7271.

WSI unveils World Bazaar Festival 2007

WORLDBEX SERVICES INT'L (WSI) ONCE AGAIN GEARS towards delighting everyone in the spirit of the Yuletide season as it embarks on another shopping feat at the biggest Christmas exhibition , the 7th World Bazaar Festival slated on Dec. 6 to 16, at the World Trade Center, Metro Manila. Grab your slot at the grandest Christmas Bazaar in the country that features exciting activities and showcases the best products in the local and international arena. Strut off your wares and display delicious entrees to experience in full blast the most anticipated bazaar to hit more than 100,000 Filipino shoppers in the Metro. Proceeds of the 7th World Bazaar Festival will go to the ABS-CBN Foundation Inc. For more inquiries, call WSI at (02)531-6350/74 or 534-3615, fax (02)533-2026 or e-mail at info@worldbex.com.

Treskelion Night

TO ALL TRESKELION ALUMNI ORganization of TAU Gamma Phi-Sigma, there will be a "Treskelion Night" on Oct. 4, at 7 p.m. at Kowloon House, Matalino St., Quezon City with the theme: "Magkita tayo sa patuloy na pagkakaisa para sa kalikasan". For more information, call Mayor Bong Teves Jr at 0918-9454808 and Jun Amoma at 0921-4525071.

PMDO conducts medical, dental mission

THE PRINT MEDIA DEALERS ORGANIZATION OF THE PHILS Inc (PMDO) in coordination with the Rotary Club Agham District 3780, PCSO and Unilab will launch a medical and dental mission on Oct. 13 at the Amoranto Stadium covered court along Sct. Chuatoco St., Roxas District, Quezon City from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. An estimated 800 newsboys/news carriers and newsstand owners will be the main beneficiary of this mission which is also being supported by all major publications. QC Mayor Sonny Belmonte will be the keynote speaker. For details, call the PMDO office at 749-9057, 0906-2151406.

Siemens badminton tournament

AN EXCITING EVENT IS HAPPENING ON OCT. 6, AS Siemens aims to further strengthen the bond between Siemens employees through their 1st inter-division badminton tournament tagged as Smash That! at d'Zone badminton court in Makati. Teams are composed of employees from various divisions and corporate departments including their president/CEO, Adrian Wood, who is in fact playing. Non-playing employees on the other hand will be out to show their support through endless cheers.

Life Insurance Consciousness Week

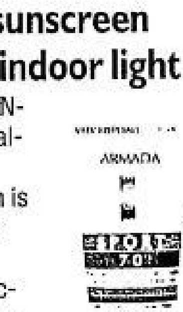
THE PHILIPPINE LIFE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION (PLIA) kicks off on Oct. 6 the 12th Annual Philippine Life Insurance Consciousness Week. The week will open with "Wellness for Life," a wellness fair featuring one-on-one interactions with experienced health and wellness providers, and a children's fair and variety show. It will be held at the Activity Center of Market! Market! Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Highlighting the Wellness for Life program is a gathering of valued policyholders and agents from across the local life insurance industry, who will be attending various talks about total fitness and healthy lifestyles. Experts will be on-hand to give free advice and demonstrations.

SSA celebrates 25th Foundation

THE SCHOOL OF SAINT ANTHONY PROUDLY CELEBRATES its 25th Foundation from Oct. 22 to 27, with the theme: "An afFAIR to salute 25 years of Exellence: Matatag na SSAmahan tungo sa Maunlad na Bayan". Activities lined-up are: Oct. 24 - Opening of the Booths and Rides, Thanksgiving Mass, Service Awards, Anthonian Singing Idol and Pre-School Field Demonstration; Oct. 25 - Lower School Field Demonstration and Anthonian Dance Contest; Oct. 26 - Middle and Upper School Field Demonstration and Anthonian Talent Show; Oct. 27 - Calisthenics, Sports Activities and Friendly Games, Food Expo and then finally, the Alumni Homecoming. For particulars about the 5-day affair, call teacher Lott or teacher Joy at 936-4806 or 417-8565 or visit www.schoolofsaintanthony.edu.ph.

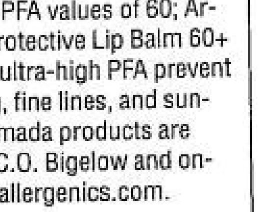
ProductFILES

Skin-lightening sunscreen for outdoor and indoor light



AT VMV HYPOALLERGENICS, the "skin love" hypoallergenic cosmeceutical company, sun protection is considered a year-round priority. With their best-selling Armada Full-Spectrum Indoor-Outdoor Sun and Light Screens, VMV considers protection a requirement even when sheltered indoors. VMV's Armada protection range includes: Armada Skin-Lightening Indoor-Outdoor Face and Body Shield - 60 (ultra-high opacity), 45 (very high opacity), and 30 (high opacity); Armada Sport 70 - extreme protection for extreme sun, heat, water or snow glare, and sport. Impressive UVA blocks and an SPF as high as 70-90; Armada Baby 60 - a purely physical protector with high SPF and PFA values of 60; Armada Moisturising, Protective Lip Balm 60+ - an SPF of 60 and an ultra-high PFA prevent lip darkening, burning, fine lines, and sun-related blisters. All Armada products are available in the US at C.O. Bigelow and online at www.vmvhypoallergenics.com.

Red Ribbon makes every day a little extra special



NOW, RED RIBBON inspires you all the more in making everyday special as it brings you the new Custard Roll! Bask in the "can't-get-enough" goodness of this light, moist chiffon cake, laden with luscious custard filling. Enticingly presented, the Custard Roll is crowned with caramel cream icing and white chocolate triangles. Every mouthful of the Custard Roll is just like its inspiration, the all-time Filipino favorite Leche Flan - so delicious. No wonder, your indulgence can go on and on. Delight as well in Red Ribbon's other two new roll flavors - classic Mocha Roll and truly mouth-watering Honey Roll. Visit the nearest Red Ribbon Bakeshop today or call 8-77-77 (Metro Manila) and enjoy this fresh offer that family and friends can look forward to everyday. After all, aren't they your greatest everyday indulgence?

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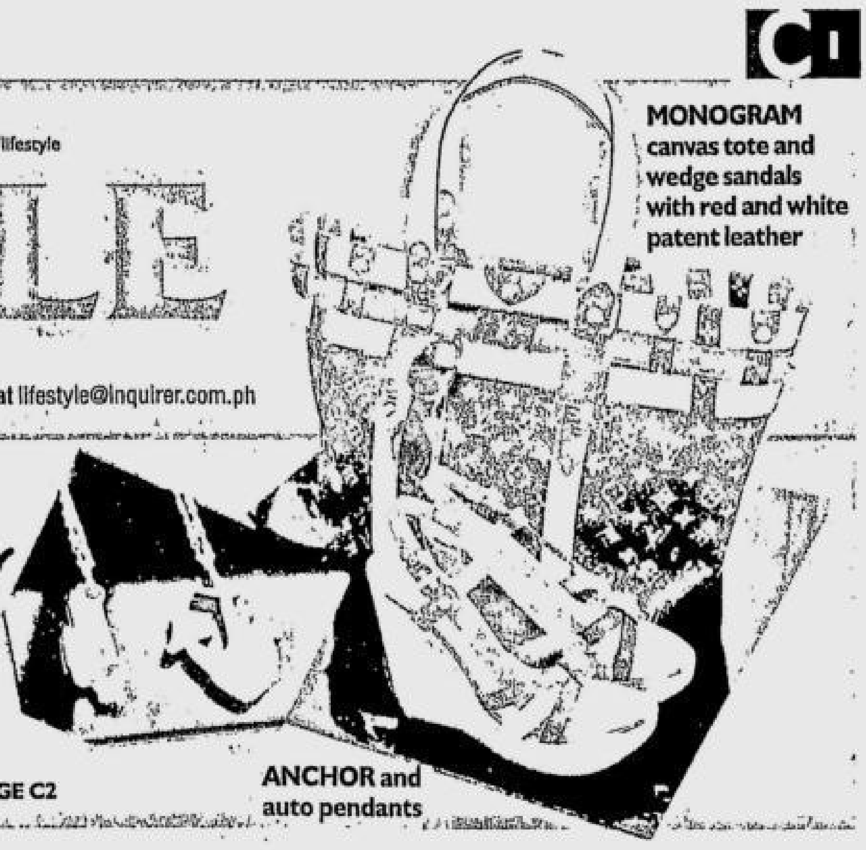
SPEEDBOAT prints on breezy lilac dress

Chic ahoy

Journey back to the '70s in the 2008 Louis Vuitton Cruise Collection; estimated time of arrival in the stores is November 2007



MONOGRAM canvas tote and wedge sandals with red and white patent leather

ANCHOR and auto pendants

STORY ON PAGE C2

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Visit the website, see posters, or call The Little Gym for details.
Participants must have a valid passport to be eligible to join. Promo period: October 1, 2007 - December 1, 2007. Deadline for Submission of entries is on December 1, 2007 at 5:00 pm. There will be one (1) grand prize winner of the "Hong Kong Disneyland Package" that includes three (3) coach class tickets, MNL-HKG-MNL; 3D/2N stay at Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel; three (3) Hong Kong Disneyland park tickets; PhP10,000 pocket money. Trip must be completed within 6 months after the winner claims the prize. Subject to availability of flight schedules and hotel accommodations. The prize is non-transferable but convertible to cash. The grand prize winner will be notified in writing through registered mail and by phone at the number appearing on the raffle coupon.

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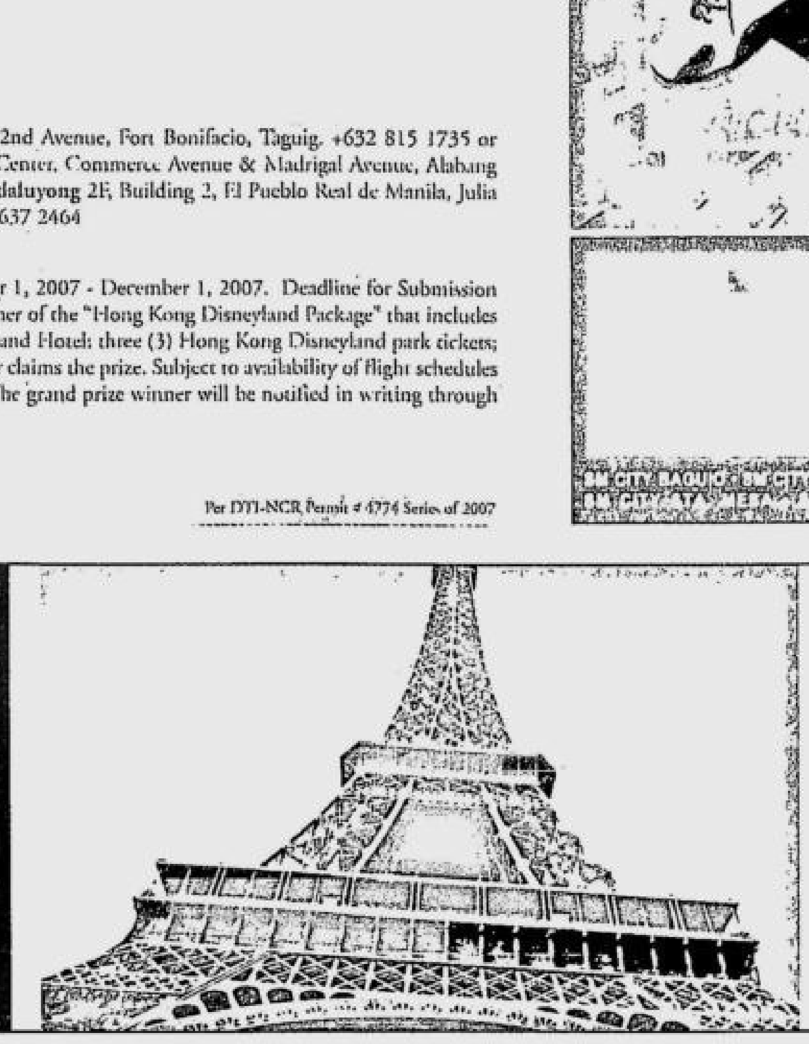
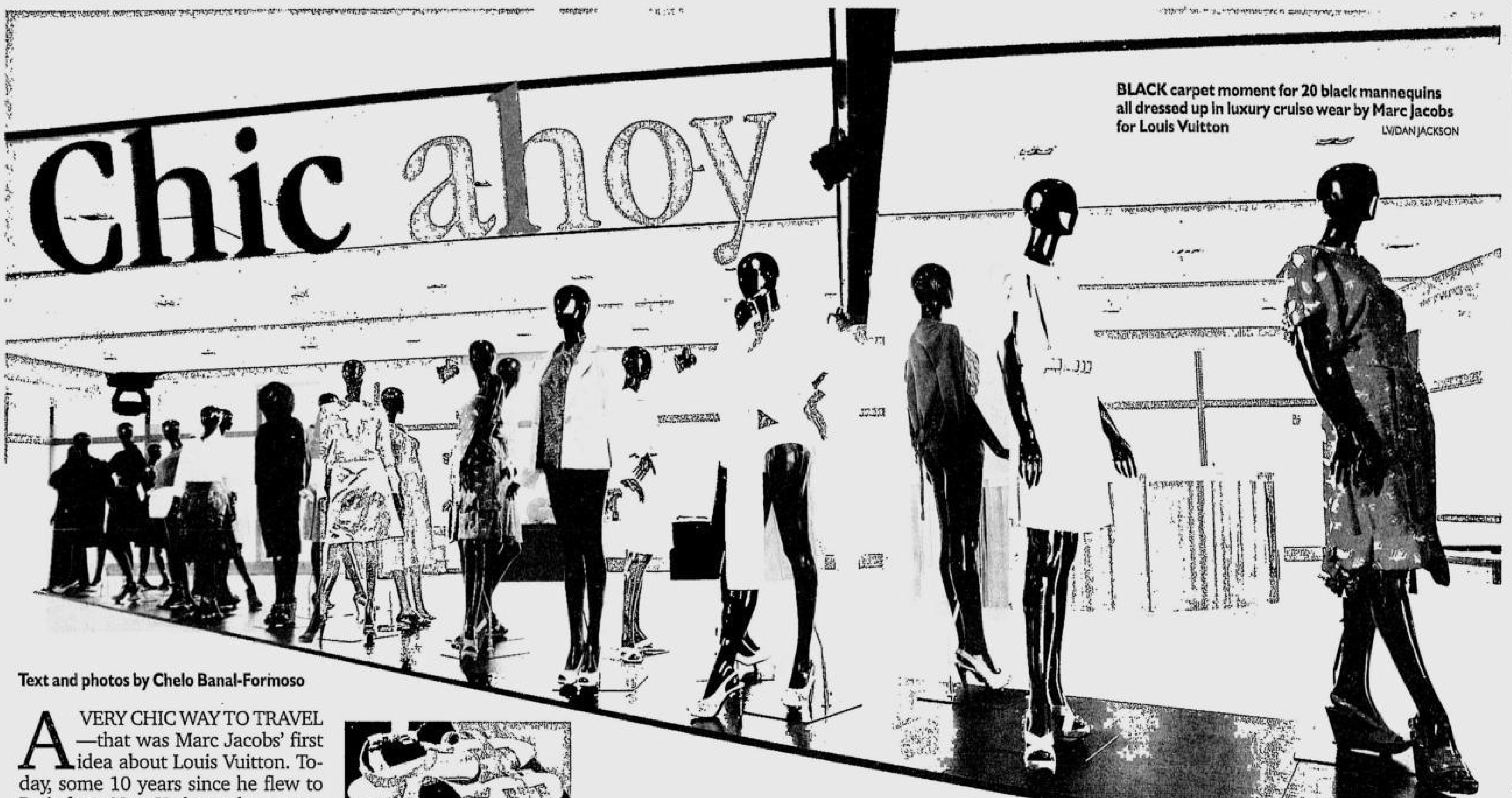


QATAR AIRWAYS القطرية

Chic ahoy



BLACK carpet moment for 20 black mannequins all dressed up in luxury cruise wear by Marc Jacobs for Louis Vuitton LV/DAN JACKSON

Text and photos by Chelo Banal-Formoso

A VERY CHIC WAY TO TRAVEL—that was Marc Jacobs' first idea about Louis Vuitton. Today, some 10 years since he flew to Paris from New York to take over as LV's artistic director, Jacobs continues to steer that idea into what the fashion industry refers to as the "resort collection," inspiring LV loyalists to chalk up more frequent-flyer miles in style.

The fashion label that invented a whole new attitude toward travel recently held the Asian presentation of its 2008 Cruise Collection in Hong Kong, complete with a 30-minute boat ride to the launch site to give the invited fashion media that "cruise feel."

Asia, of course, is the perfect market for LV's resort fashion. From Malaysia to Myanmar to Manila, the weather is such that women can wear the clothes and accessories in the collection at any time of the year. In Asia, a continent of eternal sunshine for the most part, it's resort season all year round. No need to join a cruise to be able to show off a Marc Jacob frilly chiffon frock.

Also, Asia's emerging economies just love luxury labels like LV. In fact, "love" is too weak a word, as Woody Allen would say. Taiwan and China are favorite destinations for top designer brands seeking to sell outside their comfort zones. HK and Bangkok are not too far behind in opening up luxury boutiques. But it is the Japanese who are notorious for bingeing on designer labels.

Japan is saturated with luxury stores trying to outdo one another in architecture and customer service because, according to the McClatchy News Service dispatch, Japanese consumers buy 40 to 45 percent of the world's branded goods. In Omotesando, Louis Vuitton's flagship, a giant replica of one of its signature travel trunks, has a top floor that is exclusive for members who are offered "an ever-revolving display of new goods."

Indeed, the resort collection may have been first designed in the '70s for the elite who needed a new wardrobe every year that they traveled to warmer climes to escape the harsh winters of America and Europe, but it may very well be that, in recent years, Asian consumers have kept the high-profile fashion brands afloat by buying up resort wear that is pricey, true, but wearable all year long.

THE COOLEST sandals and platforms this side of luxe dressing, in Monogram canvas and leather, matte canvas and shimmering patent

That's why big-name designers—of haute couture in Paris to pop culture in New York—now come out with resort fashion annually, in addition to their spring/summer and fall/winter lines. And, being savvy businessmen, they have been making sure to present their cruise collections in Asia.

Fashion editors and journalists from Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand and Manila attended the recent showing in Hong Kong. LV public relations director Dinesh Kandiah and his assistant Rhoda Wong expertly coordinated the whole affair, from the first class accommodations at the Grand Hyatt to a superb dinner at the very trendy Yun Fu restaurant at a Wyndham Street basement in Central to the actual launching by the harbor.

The 12th floor of the ultra modern Cyberport building provided a clean, bright and sleek setup for the 2008 Cruise Collection. Giant red lacquer boxes as well as black tables, accentuated with black place mats and vases of amaryllis, held the bags, shoes and other accessories. Sailboats and ferries passed by in the backdrop. And right smack in the center of the hall are two lines of mannequins dressed in the latest LV resort apparel, a la Hollywood's red carpet except instead of red, the matting is black.

The collection

With the exhilaration of travel as its theme, the Louis Vuitton 2008 Cruise Collection draws inspiration from the island-hopping holiday mood of the '70s, as well as the marina, aerial jaunts and vintage modes of journeying.

The collection is a joyride, Jacobs having revved things up with patchwork prints of propeller planes, speedboats, ocean liners and anchors (sorry, no road trips). Confection colors like lilac, coral, azure and raspberry make a refreshing comeback side by side that summer mainstay, the navy-white combi. Jacobs has designed a complete wardrobe that can take a stylish traveler from a day of business-as-usual to an evening of winding down at a jazz bar to a weekend at the beach. Perfect for comings and goings!

Dresses are nipped at the waist and belted. They come in light, airy fabrics like chiffon, silk and top-of-the-line cotton, always the good kind that is almost satiny. A raspberry red dress with shawl collar is perked up by side buttons and a whimsical anchor brooch.

Blouses have front-tie pussy bows that add a decidedly feminine touch. Skirts are easy to match in black, navy, white and red accented with purple, yellow, khaki and coral. They are often pleated or gathered, grazing the knee or falling just below it.

Knits, which pack beautifully, appear as shorts sets for brief encounters, with matching cardigans abloom in lilac, with insets of chiffon prints or pristine in white with navy skirt. Fun enamel charms and intricate button details liven up the knitwear in the collection.

For the business class, a light tweed-and linen suit with abbreviated jacket sports three extra-large embroidered buttons. Another suit in navy and white silk tweed has a patchwork of travel-inspired prints, with LV's signature bracelet sleeves.

Waists are back where they should be, accentuated by metallic, patent or sporty belts.

Pants are narrow and cropped to just below the knee. Hooded jackets complete the sportswear look of the collection.

The collection's must-have accessory is a pendant of six giant gold links hanging from a vintage print scarf. For more glamour, there are cat's eye sunglasses, silk scarves and trendy fingerless driving gloves in jewel-colored leather.

Shoes shimmer with sequins or glossy alligator details. Platforms are still in the running for the look of the season, with oak and wedge heels, along with flat sandals and ballerinas fabulously embellished with buttons or the unmistakable LV flowers.

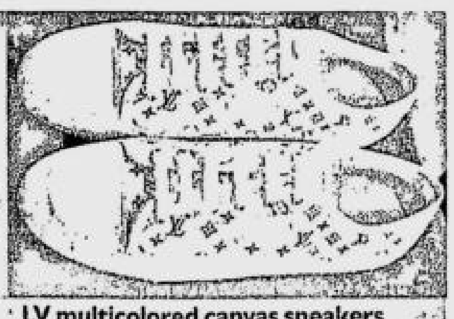
But there is nothing, absolutely nothing, that puts on the glitz more than a Louis Vuitton bag, and the resort season offers swingable, roomy totes in Monogram canvas sport with interwoven glossy red leather strips and finished with gold metal bolts and studs.

Estimated time of arrival for the Louis Vuitton 2008 Cruise Collection is November 2007 so, there, you have time to save up. The LV flagship boutique is located at the ground floor of Greenbelt 4, on Makati Avenue, Makati City (tel. 8899430).

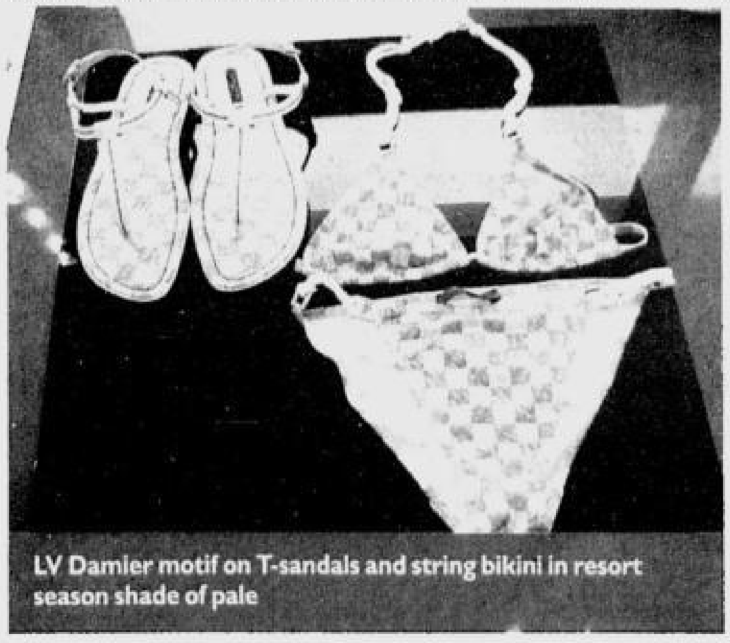
GETAWAY [illegible]

ACCESSORY du jour is part gold chains, part silk scarf with boat prints LV/DAN JACKSON

SPORTY suede shoes



LV multicolored canvas sneakers



LV Damier motif on T-sandals and string bikini in resort season shade of pale

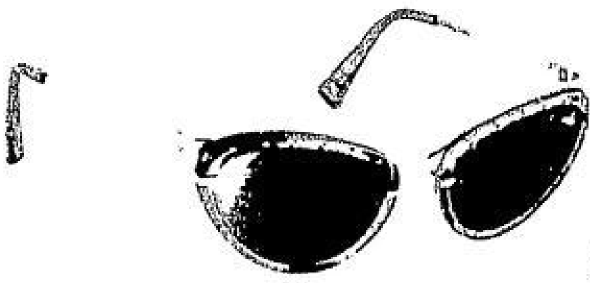
DETAILS: pussy bow, scarf necklace, belt, charm with LV four-point star inset and four-leaf flower, embroidered buttons

PATCHWORK print on belted knit short onesies with matching cardigan

PERFECT for comings and goings: toile monogrammed thong sandals, hatbox bags, totes, sneakers and wedges in resort season off-white

MONOGRAM canvas sneaker dolled up with red lace

LV/DAN JACKSON



CATS eye sunglasses [illegible] Hepburn

THEY all love LV. (above) Millet Mananquil, LV advertising manager for Asia-Pacific Puachie Dieker, LV-Manila PR Pam Picazo, Pam Quiñonez and Sara Marquez at the HK launch organized by (at left) LV corporate PR assistant Rhoda Wong and PR director Dinesh Kandiah

Serve up the soupstansya

Complete your meal with Knorr Cream Soup goodness.

Like you, Gelli questions her and her family's food all the time. Are her ingredients natural? Is the meal complete?

Complete your meal with soupstansya.

That's why Gelli takes every opportunity to bring more value into her and her family's meals. And soup is the perfect way

Well-loved as a comforting dish, Gelli sees her kids wet their rice and drink right from their bowls to fully enjoy their soup. So she takes advantage of these habits to whet their appetite and improve the goodness of every meal.

Gelli doesn't settle for just any soup though. Only Knorr Cream Soup, alongside their regular fare of pritong ulam and kanin, completes the meal's soupstansya

Other souprising benefits

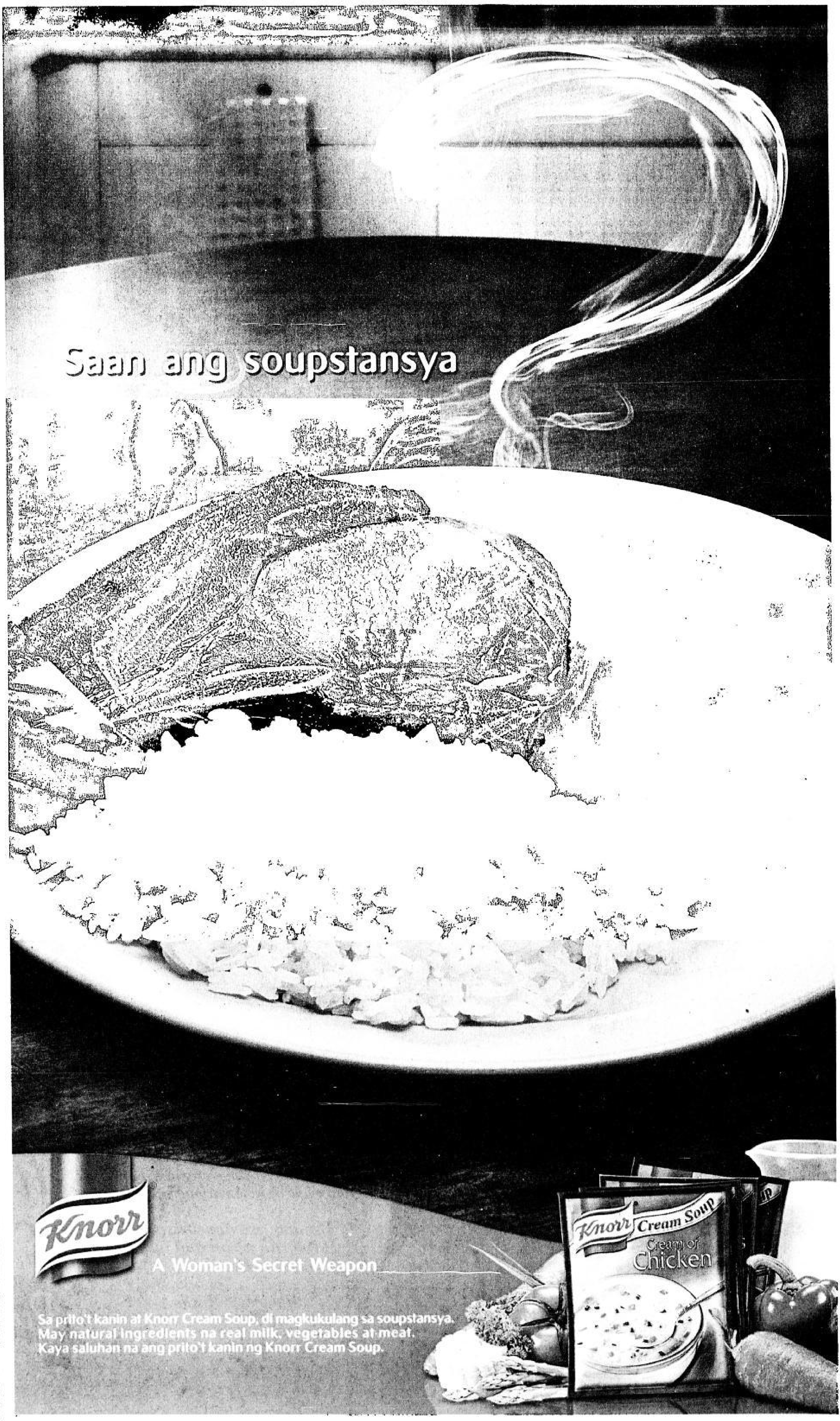
In itself, taking soup is healthy But did you ever think of it as a tasty way to hydrate your body? The World Health Organization's recommended daily water intake is 2-2.5 litres for adults. With Knorr Cream Soup, it'll be easy to take in that much water to aid in your digestion, keep your skin supple and make sure nutrition goes all the way to your muscles and brain

And since soup is so satisfying, it can actually help you stay slim. Studies show that people who take soup regularly have a lower Body Mass Index (BMI). Interesting isn't it? That because Knorr Cream Soup helps you feel fuller sooner AND for a longer time

Choose Knorr Cream Soup-stansya

With all the benefits of soup plu the benefits of natural ingr dier like real milk, vegetables and m Knorr Cream Soup mak fo good side dish. don't u tl

So why settle for any other soup? When it's simple pritong ulam and kanin reach for the yummy, nourishing flourish that completes the ma-soupstan meal. Choo only Knorr Cream Sou



Saan ang soupstansya

Knorr

A Woman's Secret Weapon

Sa prito't kanin at Knorr Cream Soup, di magkukulang sa soupstansya.
May natural ingredients na real milk, vegetables at meat.
Kaya saluhan na ang prito't kanin ng Knorr Cream Soup.

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HOW TO JOIN:

1. For every single receipt purchase of P500 (brochure price) worth of any Avon Intimate Apparel, Accessories and Jewelry, Gift & Décor, and Wellness products from September 1- 30, 2007 in Trendsetter Outlets, October 1-31, 2007 in National Outlets, YOU get one (1) Hong Kong Holiday Family Promo peel-apart coupon with an instant prize.
2. Simply tear the Hong Kong Holiday Family Promo peel-apart coupon on the perforated line, peel off the top page and see the instant prize written inside. YOU may win any of the following prizes:

Major Prizes:
1st Prize: 6 Hong Kong Disneyland Trips for a family of 4 people
2nd Prize: 600 Greenwich Gift Certificates worth P500 each
3rd Prize: 1200 Purefoods Gift Packs worth P250 each
Minor Prizes:
20,900 Avon products
877,294 discount coupons for Avon products

HOW TO CLAIM PRIZES:

1. An individual must present the Hong Kong Holiday Family Promo peel-apart coupon and the corresponding requirements necessary to any Avon outlet or to an authorized Avon Dealer to claim the prize.
2. Deadline of redemption of Hong Kong Holiday Family Promo peel-apart coupon prizes is November 30, 2007 6:30PM for Trendsetter Outlets, December 31, 2007 6:30PM for National Outlets. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from the end of the promo period shall be forfeited upon prior approval from DTI.
3. Only the 1st Prize: Trip to Hong Kong Disneyland, is convertible to cash (P60,000 per family of 4) but not transferable. The 2nd, 3rd and all Minor Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash. Prizes above P10,000 which are subject to 20% tax will be shouldered by Avon.
4. Operators and employees of Avon Service Centers and Xpress Centers, their security or manpower agencies and their relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are automatically disqualified from joining this promotion.
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Gift Certificates
(worth P500 each)
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winners
Purefoods
Gift Packs
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Light, moist chiffon laden with luscious custard filling. Crowned with caramel cream icing and white chocolate triangles.

Mmmm...so delicious, you can go on and on!

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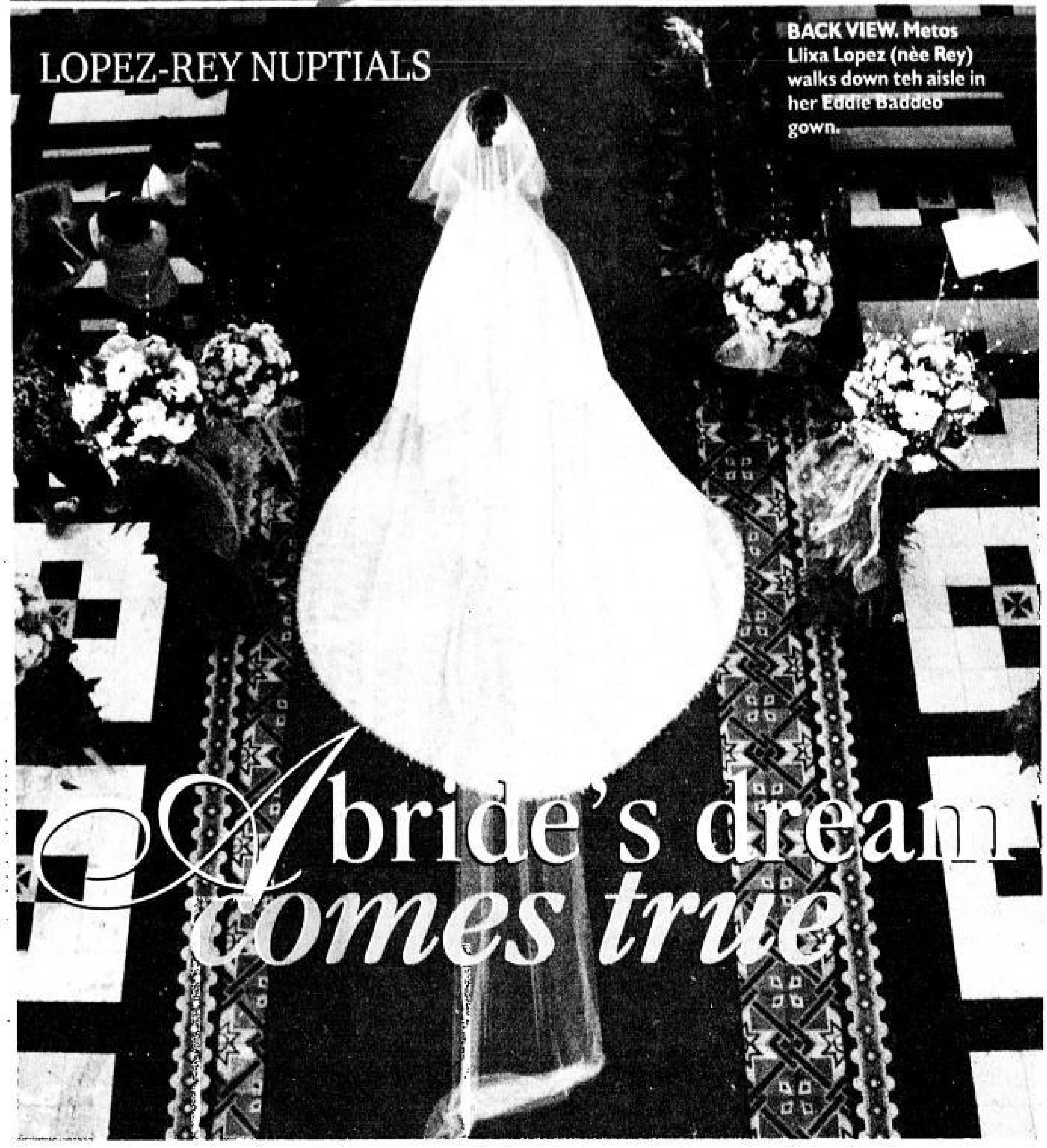
LOPEZ-REY NUPTIALS

A bride's dream comes true



BACK VIEW. Metos Llixa Lopez (nèe Rey) walks down teh aisle in her Eddie Baddeo gown.

WHEN METOS Llixa Rey and her team from United Laboratories (Unilab) held a product launch in 2003, they wore gowns designed by Eddie Baddeo.

Baddeo's classic touch, attention to detail and passion for perfection impressed Rey.

As can be expected from a product manager, Rey did a comparative evaluation of suppliers for her wedding requirements—florist, events management, invitation and videographer.

But for her wedding gown she had only one person in mind: Baddeo.

So she showed up at Baddeo's West Avenue, QC shop a month after her engagement to Steve Lopez, with a scrapbook of photographs of what she wanted for invitation, bouquet and design for the entourage's attire, among others.

The designer noted Rey knew exactly what she wanted for her wedding, down to the wedding gown.

Baddeo designed a princess-cut gown with a two-layer bouffant skirt. The upper layer was made of off-white duchess satin while the underskirt, exposed at the back, was made of French lace with intricately woven embossed flowers and metallic thread that accentuated the simple upper layer of the skirt.

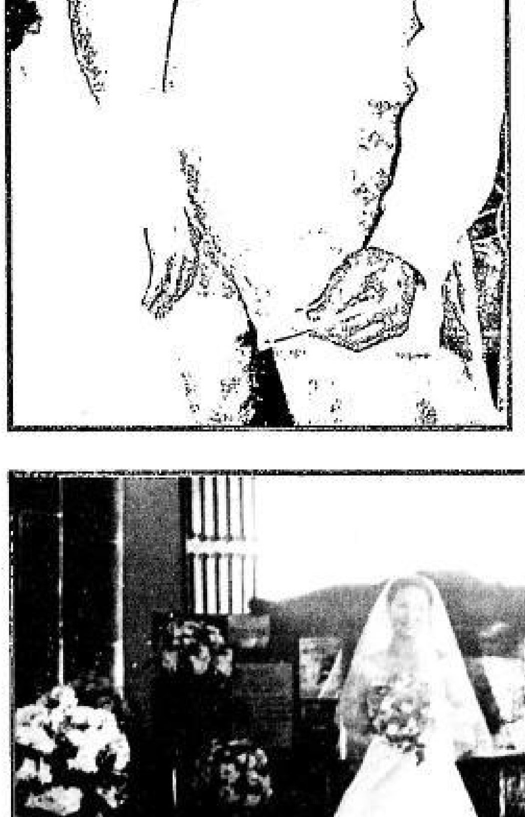
He said he also personally worked with her makeup artist and bouquet arranger to make sure a single look was achieved.

Heidi Balicha gave Rey an enhanced daily look that is very simple and truly natural.

Nathan de Leon prepared a cascading rose bouquet to complement Metos' bouffant skirt.

"Metos was simple yet elegant on her wedding day—just the way she wanted," Baddeo said.

Metos Llixa Rey and Steve Lopez were wed at the San Carlos Cathedral in Pangasinan. Reception followed at the cathedral garden.



NEWLYWEDS Steve and Metos Lopez. The groom is in a *piña* barong Tagalog by Eddie Baddeo.

THE BRIDE in her dream wedding gown.

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ngayon mas pinasarap ng toyo at sariwang
katas ng kalamansi. Lasap na lasap ang asim-sarap!
Matitikman na sa bagong Blue Bay Tuna Toyomansi,
ang pinaghalong ulam at sawsawang katakam-takam!

Subukan na ang bagong Kilig-Sarap
mula sa Blue Bay Tuna!

Ganyan magmahal pag Pinay ka.

5th Anniversary of Shrine
September 12, 2
"Karapatan sa
naka-pundar
ng karapat

MSGR. Salvador Jose (center), with Jimmy Leornas of Family Life Philippines and Bro. Bong Guiuan, reads Pro-Life Manifesto.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

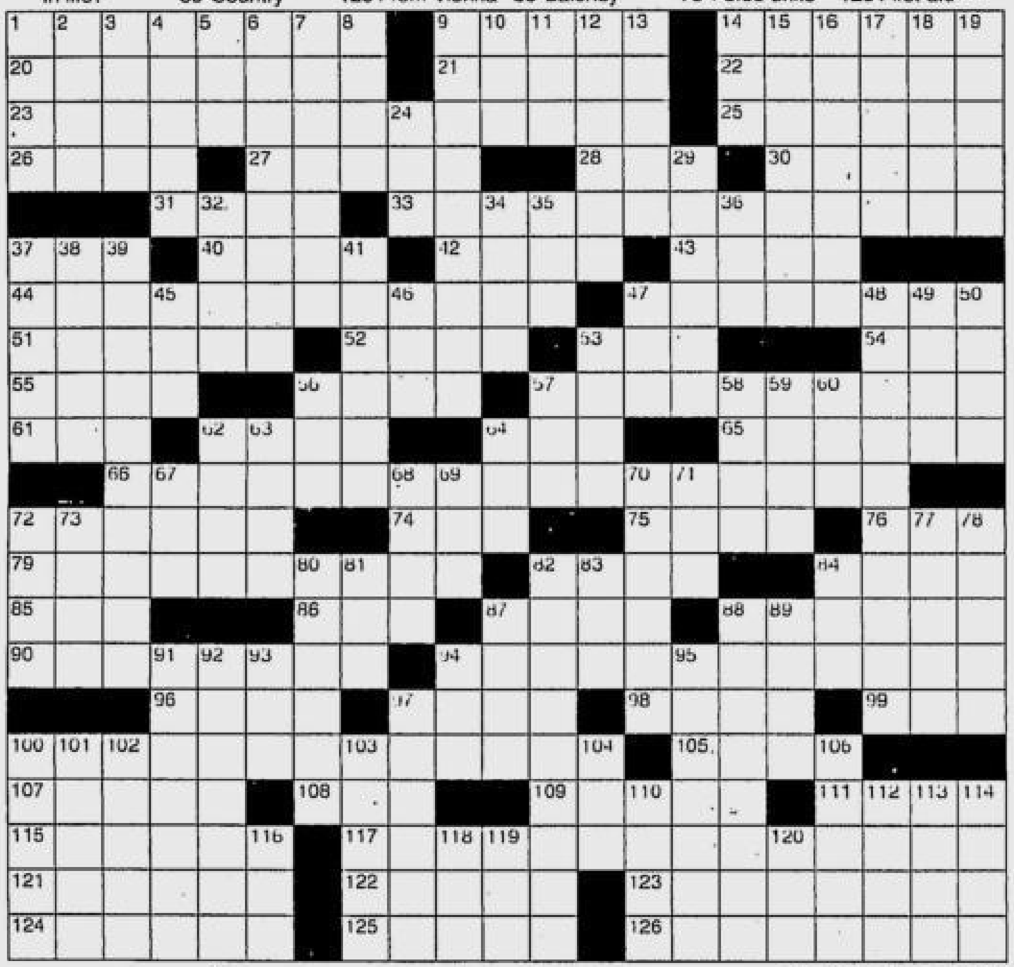
PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo SILVER-HEADED

ACROSS

1 Situated toward the front
9 Young dog
14 Incompetent
20 "Don —" (Mozart opera)
21 Figure skater Sonja
22 Daytime soap, e.g.
23 Will written by Nixon's veep?
25 Newspaper section
26 Leg bone
27 Movie critic Roger
28 "— for Evidence" (Grafton novel)
30 "Cosi fan —" (Mozart opera)
31 1970 WWII film, when tripled
33 Gleaming hair-care items?
37 Pale-looking
40 Sch. of the Bruins
42 Electrojet particles
43 Top-rate
44 Gilbert's partner late in life?
47 Of the aorta, e.g.
51 Singer Lyle
52 Talking TV horse
53 Congo's continent: Abbr.
54 T.Sgt., e.g.
55 With 2-Down, got close
56 Tree trunk growth
57 Beaming bus rider?
61 Gob's paddle
62 Gobs
64 Time span
65 Come back
66 Winds and strings playing in tune with each other?
72 Colombia's capital
74 Pinnacle
75 Crooked
76 Media mogul Turner
79 Slack-jawed business execs?
82 Fido's friend
84 Militia
85 Mr., in Madras
86 Author Talese
87 "— -daisy!"
88 Country
90 Villain's assistant
94 Sparkling spouse?
96 Parade ruiner
97 Cato's 2,051
98 Rough- — (not sanded, as wood)
99 The, in Caen
100 Birds that have landed?
105 Tournament draws
107 Go on all fours
108 Vacuum's lack
109 Sheer fabric
111 Pub servings
115 Invented, as a new word
117 Striped stone sculpted to look like bacon and eggs?
121 Actor Cesar
122 Gradually get narrow
123 City near Atlanta
124 In the thick of
125 Required stakes
126 From Vienna

DOWN

1 "What —!" ("Dig this!")
2 See 55-Across
3 Tennille or Morrison
4 Occasion
5 Unedited
6 Weave together contrasting scenes, in filmmaking
7 Pool rack component
8 Get higher
9 "How could that be?"
10 Tailor's edge
11 Ethyl ending
12 Tablecloths, sheets, etc.
13 — four (teacake)
14 Inits. on a battleship
15 Triton's planet
16 Interest-piquing thing
17 Genesis
18 Cappuccino alternative
19 "It's nobody — business"
24 Refrain bit
29 Italian fast-food chain
32 Expel
34 Burden
35 Rustic hotel
36 Baloney
37 Ralph — Emerson
38 Old Greek market
39 "That's the last time I'll do that!"
41 Praline nut
45 Natural moisture
46 Tax gp.
47 — -CIO
48 Part of CIO
49 Excellent server, in tennis
50 Bereft, old-style
53 Lab gel
56 Curly's chum
57 Skill
58 Small bird
59 Tenant's obligation
60 Morticia Addams' cousin
62 Comic Johnson
63 Some are herbal
64 Eerie ability
67 Republican gp.
68 — -bitty
69 Denials
70 WWII subs
71 Intersected
72 Hit hard
73 Real meanie
77 Ham it up
78 Force units
80 Neighbor of Kenya
81 McKellen or McShane
82 Slivers
83 Greek letter
84 Dough-filled machine
87 Wrinkly tangelo
88 They're rung in on January 1
89 British composer Thomas
91 Made a king
92 Flatbed trucks, e.g.
93 60 secs.
94 Diplomatic official: Abbr.
95 Picturesque scene
97 Actress Fairchild
100 Capital of Ghana
101 Bride's mate
102 "Darkman" director Sam
103 Calf catcher
104 Cry loudly
106 Less risky
110 "— la Douce"
112 So-do linkup
113 "Como —?"
114 Getz of jazz
116 "j" topper
118 Fitting
119 Golfer's peg
120 First-aid —



answer on page D4

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang

La Naval papal coronation to be reenacted Oct. 4

HIGHLIGHTING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE canonical coronation of La Naval de Manila, the Dominican Province of the Philippines will reenact the Marian image's solemn canonical coronation on Oct. 4 at the Sto. Domingo Parish in Quezon City, the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary.

The reenactment will be made during a High Mass at 4 p.m. to be celebrated by Msgr. Wojciech Zaluski, charge de affaires of the Apostolic Nunciature, 15 bishops coming from all over the country, and Dominican priests.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will lead civil officials in the reenactment.

"It is important to note that Our Virgin of La Naval is the first canonically crowned Marian image in the Philippines as well as in Asia," said Rev. Jeff Aytona, OP of Sto. Domingo. "Her crown symbolizes that she is the queen of heaven and earth."

After the Mass, the enthronement of La Naval, which signals the official start of the novena Masses, will also be held. In this event, the image will be placed at the baldachino, a special platform for the Virgin, behind the altar of the Sto. Domingo Church.

"Unlike in the previous years, La Naval will not be brought to the throne through a procession. Rather, Our Lady will already be near the altar on Oct. 4," Aytona said.

Included in the centennial celebration is a musical tribute by classical and popular musicians, such as Basil Valdez, Jose Mari Chan, Jamie Rivera, and Dean Raul Sunico of the UST Music Conservatory, in a concert series, titled "Serenata," which will accompany the novena Masses, Oct. 5 to 13.

Moreover, the massive art-history-theology book, "The Saga of La Naval de Manila: Triumph of a People's Faith," will be launched on Oct. 7, 1:30 p.m., at the Sto. Domingo Church.

The Nuestra Señora del Rosario de La Naval was canonically crowned in 1907 in accordance with the Papal Bull of Pope Pius X in 1906.

The 1907 coronation drew the biggest crowd of its time to Manila and was attended by leaders of Asian churches.

OUR Lady of La Naval

OUR Lady of the Roses, Mary Help of Mothers

Our Lady of Roses

Twelve years after the visionary Veronica Leuken passed away, Grace Salvacion continues to hold a Rosary vigil 2-3 p.m. every Saturday for Our Lady of the Roses in her house at No. 4 Highlight St., 4th Estate Subdivision, Parañaque.

Our Lady appeared to Veronica in 1970 in Bayside, New York and said she wanted Rosary vigils on the eve of all great Catholic feast days. The vigils were to be held on the grounds of St. Robert Bellarmine Church in the city.

The Virgin said she wanted a shrine there and she was to be invoked under the title of "Our Lady of the Roses, Mary Help of Mothers."

She promised to appear during the vigils and give heavenly messages. She asked that the Rosary be said aloud. After 24 years, the messages were compiled into books. Our Lady said Bayside would become "the Lourdes of the Americas."

Grace wrote Veronica in 1983 and received information on the apparitions. Veronica taught her to pray to the Virgin, "My Jesus, my confidence."

Those who wish to join the Rosary vigil can text 0920-9001323.

Fr. Zenki Manabat of the Sto. Domingo Cathedral in Basco, Batanes is asking for Rosaries for the Prelature Rosary Rally on Oct. 7. Please send c/o Asian Spirit or text Fr. Zenki at 0921-7909361.

Shrine

The Archdiocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Orence Street, Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati is the only pro-life shrine in the Philippines.

The late Jaime Cardinal Sin declared it a shrine in 2002, after the Vatican made Juan Diego a saint. He was the visionary of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of pro-life advocates.

On Sept. 12, feast of the Holy Name of Mary, a procession around the shrine was held.

Bishop Francisco de Leon celebrated Holy Mass later with Msgr. Salvador Jose, rector and parish priest.

A pro-life manifesto affirmed the shrine's commitment to the preservation of human life, not only of the unborn. It called for a stop in the persecution of journalists and the destruction of environment. Environment Secretary Lito Atienza was a guest.

Seminar

The Legion of Mary in the Resurrection of the Lord Parish in BF Homes will hold a Mary in the Life of Christians seminar 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Oct. 6 at the Veritas Parochial School near the church.

The Mary Seat of Wisdom Presidium headed by Bro. Walt Sandoval, in cooperation with Mother of Divine Grace Curia, invited Lourdes Carido of the Children of Light Community and Fr. Bel San Luis, SVD, as speakers. Fr. San Luis will say Mass at 3:30 p.m. Text Bro. Tony Medina at 0915-3830623 or Bro. Walt at 0917-7928667.

Masses

Tess Salud, coordinator of the Society of the Little Way (SLW), said Most Rev. Raul Martinez, bishop emeritus of San Jose, Antique, would celebrate Mass at 10 a.m. today at the Sta. Teresita del Niño Jesus Parish, 43 Kanlaon St., QC. The parish is run by the Franciscan Capuchins.

On Oct. 1, feast day of St. Therese, Mass will be said at 6 p.m. Roses will be given away and the relic will be venerated.

The Parish of Our Lady of the Abandoned (Sta. Ana Church) on Pedro Gil, Sta. Ana, Manila will hold a Mass in Ilokano at 10 a.m., Oct. 7., Fr. Eli Manlangit, OFM, parish priest, is inviting Ilokanos.

Schedule of Masses in other Filipino languages is: Nov. 4, Kapampangan; Jan. 6, Bicolano; Feb. 3, Cebuano; March 2, Ilonggo; and April 6, Waray. This is part of the preparation for the celebration of the 8th centenary of the foundation of the Order of Friars Minor (OFM) in 2009.

Play

Theater writer-director Francis O. Villacorta announced a lineup of plays seeking to create awareness of the lives of saints. To be presented on Oct. 5 at Malate Catholic School is "Beloved Beata," the story of Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo's faith that led to the establishment of the first religious congregation for women in the Philippines, the Religious of the Virgin Mary.

Anniversary

Our Lady of Lourdes Seminary in Tagaytay will mark its golden anniversary on Nov. 1. In preparation for the event, the Order of Friars Minor-Capuchin is inviting alumni to attend the grand reunion, Oct. 6-7, in Tagaytay. The seminary, St. Lawrence of Brindisi House, is in need of repair.

Those wishing to help can call Bro. Alex or Bro. Allan at 7421323 or 7426532.

Assembly

Aklanons are invited to attend the Archbishop Gabriel M. Reyes Foundation general assembly and fellowship at 3:30 p.m. today at the PAFCPIC Center, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. Call 0916-2106591.

Pilgrimage

Fr. Artemio Fabros, assistant parish priest of Ermita Church, will be the chaplain of a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The trip that will include Egypt and Jordan leaves Oct. 14 and returns Oct. 28. Text Fr. Tem. at 0921-8398325 or call 5265211 (Ephesus).

Msgr. Jerome Reyes, rector and parish priest of the Basilica Minore of San Lorenzo Ruiz, welcomed the San Lorenzo Chapel of New York Advisory Council during the celebration Sept. 28 of the feast day of the saint with a Holy Mass by Cardinal Rosales. Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim was *hermano mayor*.

The Apostles of Jesus Crucified (ACJ) in Davao City will mark the first foundation day of Padre Pio's Home for Children Oct. 6-7 on Rambutan Street (now Carmelite Road) in Tugbok. Text Sister Marta Kuzniar at 0920-5143396 or call 083-2930290.

Those who want Padre Pio Mass brochure can call Teresa Dizon at 6343668.

TESSIE Javier, Teresin Mendezona, Honey Loop and Arcy Gayatin

CASINO Español president Jose Sala and Michel Lhuillier who heads La Chaine des Rotisseurs in the Philippines

RICKY Dakay, Vivina Yrastorza, Madame Monique Leminchbach and Robert Go

CEBU CEBU
Jaime Picornell

A gathering of amigos y amigas

"OLE AMIGOS" WAS THE SPANISH-themed fellowship of the Cebu Chapter of La Chaine des Rotisseurs held at the Casino Español.

Canapés and cava, the Spanish version of champagne, were served at Salon Granada; the lavish buffet dinner was at the grand ballroom, Salon de España.

Presiding over the event were La Chaine's head for the Philippines, Michel Lhuillier, and his wife Amparito Llamas, who is "Madame la Baili" of the Cebu chapter. Other officers present were Teresin Mendezona, Dietmar Dietrich, Dr. Nestor Alonso, Al Evangelo and Jake Sungahid.

Casino Español de Cebu was well-represented by its president José B. Sala, vice president Gabriel Leyson, directors Jimmy Escano and Nonoy Alba, general manager Ed Tongco, and services manager Rudy Ruby, who looked into every detail to ensure the big success the event turned out to be.

Chef Ipar Miranda prepared the impressive buffet, every dish an authentic Spanish recipe that he mastered during years of study in Cuenca, Spain. The spread was supplemented with a leg of Jamon Serrano Iberico at a carving station, an array of delicacies, and a load of cheeses that were all imported from Spain by Hola España. The company also supplied the fine wines poured throughout the evening.

Among the VIPs at Michel and Amparito's table was Monique Leminchbach, the commercial counselor of the French Embassy.

CECILIA Rodriguez, Happy Ouano Miranda and Merche Miranda

AMPARITO Lhuillier, Elvira Luym and Iris Arcenas

Also present were chef Ipar's mom, Happy Ouano Miranda; and his sister, Merche Miranda.

Choy Sala could have gotten the evening's award for most twirly dancer, keeping lively tempo with Loveth Abad while all that Latin beat was played throughout the ballroom after dinner.

More events

Michel and Amparito are now mapping out more events for La Chaine in the coming months.

Everyone is requested to come in black on Oct. 29 for "Spooky Night" devised by Manny Osmeña at the Cebu Hilton in Mactan.

Marco Protacio of the Waterfront Hotel will turn its large ballroom into a "Christmas Wonderland" on Dec. 12. For that, everyone has to be in formal togs.

There are great plans for 2008 when a Grand International Chapitre is scheduled to be held in the Philippines. Sixty-eight chapters in more than 70 countries have been duly informed so that delegates may reserve for two events in Manila and another two in Cebu.

In Manila, there will be a Grand Copa at the Polo Club on March 9 and a formal dinner with a Venetian theme on March 10 at the Peninsula Hotel. The action moves to Cebu afterwards.

On March 11, there will be a Filipino Fiesta at the Social Hall of the provincial capitol with Governor Gwen Garcia welcoming one and all.

Anna Marie Conejero is coordinating the two-day event with two formidable chairs—Teresin Mendezona and Lita Urbina.

One can just imagine the evening, filled with *rondalla* music, guests in Filipiniana attire, and a splendid buffet of Cebuano cuisine by the different chefs of hotels that are members of La Chaine.

On March 12 it will be a formal event at Marquee of the Shangri-La in Mactan. It is the 15th induction gala wherein new members of La Chaine are dubbed knights and ladies with a gleaming golden sword.

GM Tim Wright is expected to make Shangri-La excel itself, something it can easily do given the success of the state dinner held in there during the last summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

Is a 75th birthday celebration a waste of money?

DEAR EMILY,

My dad is celebrating his 75th birthday soon and I'm planning to give him a surprise party.

When I told my sister about this she told me that instead of coming home and spending for a party for my dad, we should just use the money to pay an old debt we incurred during the hospitalization of my mom, who has passed away.

She told me to be practical. I am bent on giving my dad a party to show him my gratitude for his helping me in bringing up my kids during those years when I needed someone to attend to my kids.

I am here in Australia at the moment and I intend to come home next month in time for my dad's birthday. I have already organized the venue and invitations, etc.

He does not know that I am coming home. My purpose is to make my dad happy on this special day—for him to see relatives and old friends. I am happy that my dad has reached this age when most of all his siblings and many friends have already passed away.

We will never know how much time he has left.

Should I be sentimental or practical?

CELEBEE

Debts can always be paid on installment by those left behind, while a person's life is constantly hanging by a thread—no matter how healthy, wealthy and wise he is.

I suggest you go ahead with your plan. If you do not need your sister's money to hold this party, keep her out of the preparations.

Did you not say your father cared for your kids for years? Well then, no monetary equivalent can compensate for the hours, days, months and years your father spent nurturing your children.

This will truly be a blessing for him, to be shown appreciation when he least expects it and while he can still appreciate it.

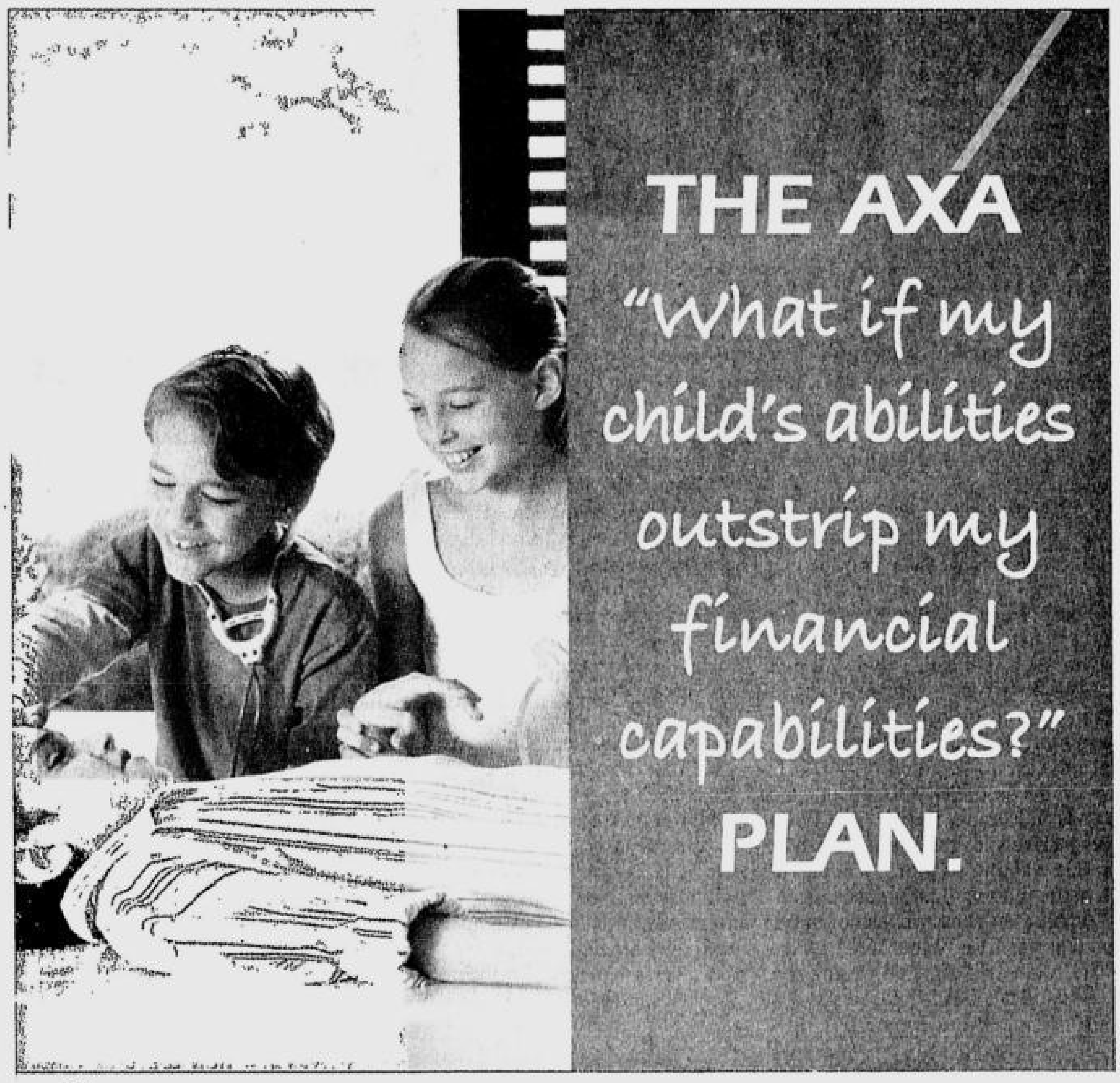
For people who have been so used to being relegated to the background for the longest time, is your father not worth the expense?

Make him the center of attention on this special day when he deserves it best! This wonderful gesture of yours will allow him to segue with a blast to his waning years, which is inevitable.

Yes, have a party for him. Let him bring the wonder and joy of that event to the grave with him.

He has given you much more than he should. He deserves nothing less.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. *Log on to www.pbs.gov.ph and listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.*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THROUGH thick and thin. Inspiring breast-cancer survivors Anita Adano, Editha Jimenez, Rosita Velasquez and Fran Tolentino with their husbands and sons

GMA-7 anchor Arnold Clavio, who will host this year's Avon Walk Against Breast Cancer on Oct. 7 at SM Mall of Asia

ASTRA Zeneca president Alan Knox and Philippine Cancer Society executive director Luzmindo Fajardo (right) join Avon general manager Bob Briddon in the fight against breast cancer.

Walk against breast cancer

AVON'S KISS GOODBYE TO Breast Cancer crusade is on a mission to empower and protect all women against the disease that claims some 4,000 Filipinas every year.

As part of this advocacy, the annual Avon Walk against Breast Cancer, now on its fifth year in the country, will gather advocates, survivors, their families, friends and other active supporters to raise awareness and funds that will help make breast-care information, facilities and services more widely available, especially to those in the provinces.

On Oct. 7, 14 and 21, expect roads in Manila, Baguio and Iloilo, respectively, to be filled with thousands walking so more women will win the fight against breast cancer.

With the primary cause of breast cancer yet to be identified, awareness and early detection remain to be women's best defense against the disease.

The event will also be part of Avon's Global Connection Ribbon Tour. Breast-cancer survivor Dai Weiwen from the People's Republic of China will join the Walk in Manila to turn over the Global Connection Ribbon to a Filipina breast-cancer survivor as a symbol of shared hope, survivorship and unity against breast cancer.

Last year, over 12,000 volunteers walked to raise funds that went to improving equipment at the Philippine General Hospital, Northern Mindanao Medical Center in Cagayan De Oro and Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital in Bacolod.

Apart from continued support for the PGH Breast Care Center, funds will also be used to provide government hospitals in Baguio and Iloilo with new medical equipment.

Previous beneficiaries include the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center in Cebu and Davao Medical Center. This year, Avon, in partnership with the Philippine Cancer Society, hopes to gather 15,000 people.

In Manila, the walk will begin at the SM Mall of Asia parking lot, behind the Imax theater. In Baguio and Iloilo, the activity will start at the Melvin Jones Park and the Avon branch, respectively.

Go to any Avon branch in Metro Manila, Dagupan, Baguio, or Iloilo; call 864-2900, 8642902 or 7513805/06. In exchange for a donation of P125, a registrant will get a special KGBC T-shirt and the opportunity to be part of the Walk Against Breast Cancer in any of the three venues.

For those who would like to donate more, Avon will present a thank you product kit worth P1,000 for any additional donation of P500. All net proceeds will go to the Philippine Cancer Society Breast Cancer Fund.

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If you do not feel like going anywhere, you can get the latest home theater system or the latest gadget from Apple Store, or that cool PS3.

Winning in Citibank's 10 Million Rewards Raffle will give you all these and more.

Fathers can set up a new, awesome home-theater system with a Samsung 32" LCD TV, Dai-Ichi DVD Theater System and Philips Micro Hi-Fi Component.

Cool gadget loving dads will likely welcome the 80G iPod Video. Or they can upgrade their tool set by getting high-performance, quality tools from Black & Decker inclusive of reversible screwdriver, rotary tool kit, multipurpose utility tool, 12V automotive vacuum and the compact pressure washer.

Mothers can get new appliances like the 7.7-cu ft Samsung refrigerator, Sharp washing machine, GE water dispenser, Carrier air conditioner and LG microwave oven.

If she likes to sing, she can practice her repertoire with a new Magic Sing. She can get all the Xtreme Tagalog song chips, too.

She can get a makeover with a Wahl Homepro Styling Kit and the durable Philips Hair Dryer, then take a picture of her new look with a brand new 7.1-megapixel Canon Ixus i7 Zoom.

Kids and teens can get themselves an iPod Nano, Nintendo DS Lite, a Sony PS3 or even a Portable DVD and micro-component from Philips.

Little children can enjoy electronic fun with a Smart Kid RC Street Racer, Spin Master RC Dominator, Asder Aspiration Laptop, Redbox electronic keyboard or a Play-go 2-in-1 projector.

You can also go shopping using gift certificates at partner stores. Dining certificates at popular restaurants are also available.

The rewards points can also be used to support the Children's Hour, Operation Smile, United Nations Children's Fund, Working Hands and World Wildlife Foundation.

Cardholders can join by sending a text message to register to 2366: CITI <space> 16-digit credit card number.

The promo runs until Oct. 31. Every single-receipt purchase worth P1,000, cash advance transactions, PayLite charge, availment of Call for Cash and Balance Transfer, Citibank Reload transactions and enrollment in Citibank One Bill, E-statement and E-Alerts gets a cardholder raffle entries.

Shopping at selected partner merchants earns bonus raffle entries. Newly approved Citibank cards and requests for supplementary credit cards will also earn entries.

Cardholders of Citibank Classic or Gold Visa, Citibank Classic or Gold MasterCard, Citibank Visa Platinum and Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa can win as many as 10 million rewards points.

Cardholders of Shell-Citibank MasterCard, Mercury Drug-Citibank Visa, Citibank Clear Visa and Citibank Cash Back Card will have the chance to win up to P1 million in cash, credited to their card.

There will be three raffle draws and a total of 34 winners. The one winner of the grand draw gets 10 million rewards points or P1 million worth of cash credited to the winning card.

There will also be one winner of one million rewards points or P100,000 worth of cash credit.

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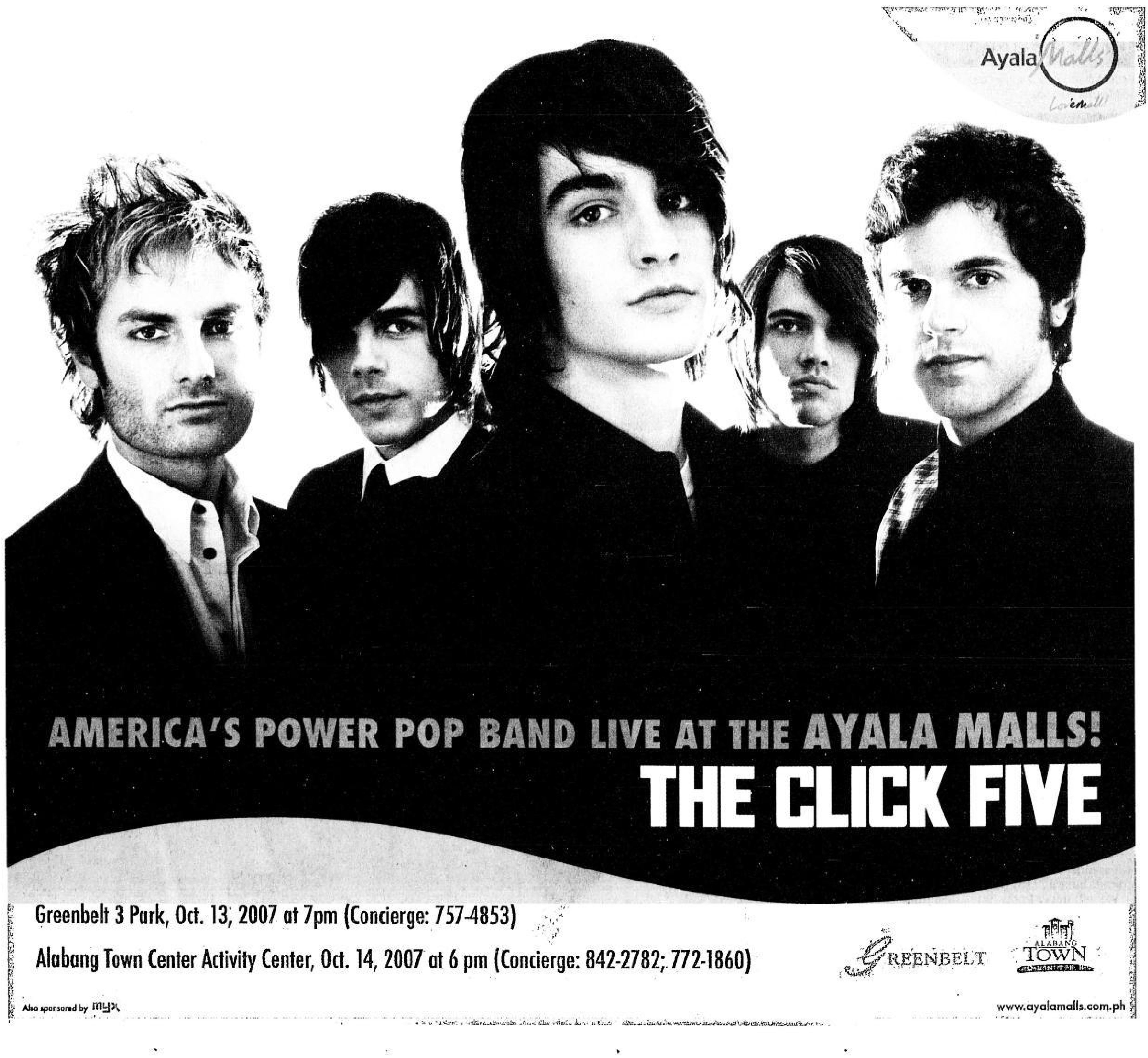

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RETURN TO SAGADA

Healed a second time

By John L. Silva
Contributor

YOU HAVE TO PSYCH YOURself for the six-hour bus ride from Baguio to the northern mountaintop town of Sagada.

But, on the road, you don't figure the added time for the stalled jeep laden with vegetables blocking the road. Or the bus having a flat tire. Or that it wouldn't start after a pit stop. Or the bus screeching to a halt because of a landslide before it.

We got off the bus and in freezing rain climbed the muddy mound about two-stories high, to slip and slide down the other side to wait for another bus.

After a while, the rain stopped, the mist cleared, and I looked up to the night sky and saw tens of thousands of stars twinkling. You don't see this spectacle in the city. Cold, wet and muddied, I smiled and the trip's misery was forgotten. Nature has a way of doing that.

I first visited Sagada as a troubled young man. A love affair had ended painfully and I was in despair. A friend suggested Sagada. There was an orphanage there that needed help. Go, she said, make yourself useful to the kids and stop the self-pity. Heal yourself in Sagada.

Thirty-six years later, I was back in Sagada to teach public-school teachers aesthetics. Six hours became almost nine hours of travel and the last third of the way was in pitch darkness along bumpy roads. The night stars were my only solace.

I was welcomed to Sagada by Dennis Faustino, St. Mary's High School principal who lived in a charming wooden house built in 1924. A jovial man with a continuous smile, he had some of his students watching a movie in the living room.

When we sat down to eat, the students were also invited and I found them to be polite but curious about my work and eager to listen to my conversation with Dennis.

Eager teachers

Early the next day, I was at St. Mary's, a well-kept two-story building donated by my La Salle Greenhills classmate Boy Yuchengco.

The building nestled in pine trees. I saw teachers signing up in the auditorium where I was to lecture. There were many young teachers astonished when I told them I was in Sagada when their parents were still in high school. Uttering it astonished me, too!

None of the teachers ever had an art-education workshop, let alone any continuing education courses for their professional development. Much as I thanked them profusely for coming on a Saturday, their personal day, and spending jeep and bus fare to get to the workshop, the teachers said they came because they wanted to learn and know what the arts was all about.

In Mindanao, the teachers clucked when they were entranced by a painting from my Powerpoint. Here in the Cordillera, they

HEALED/ E2

OLD postcard of Igorot schoolgirls

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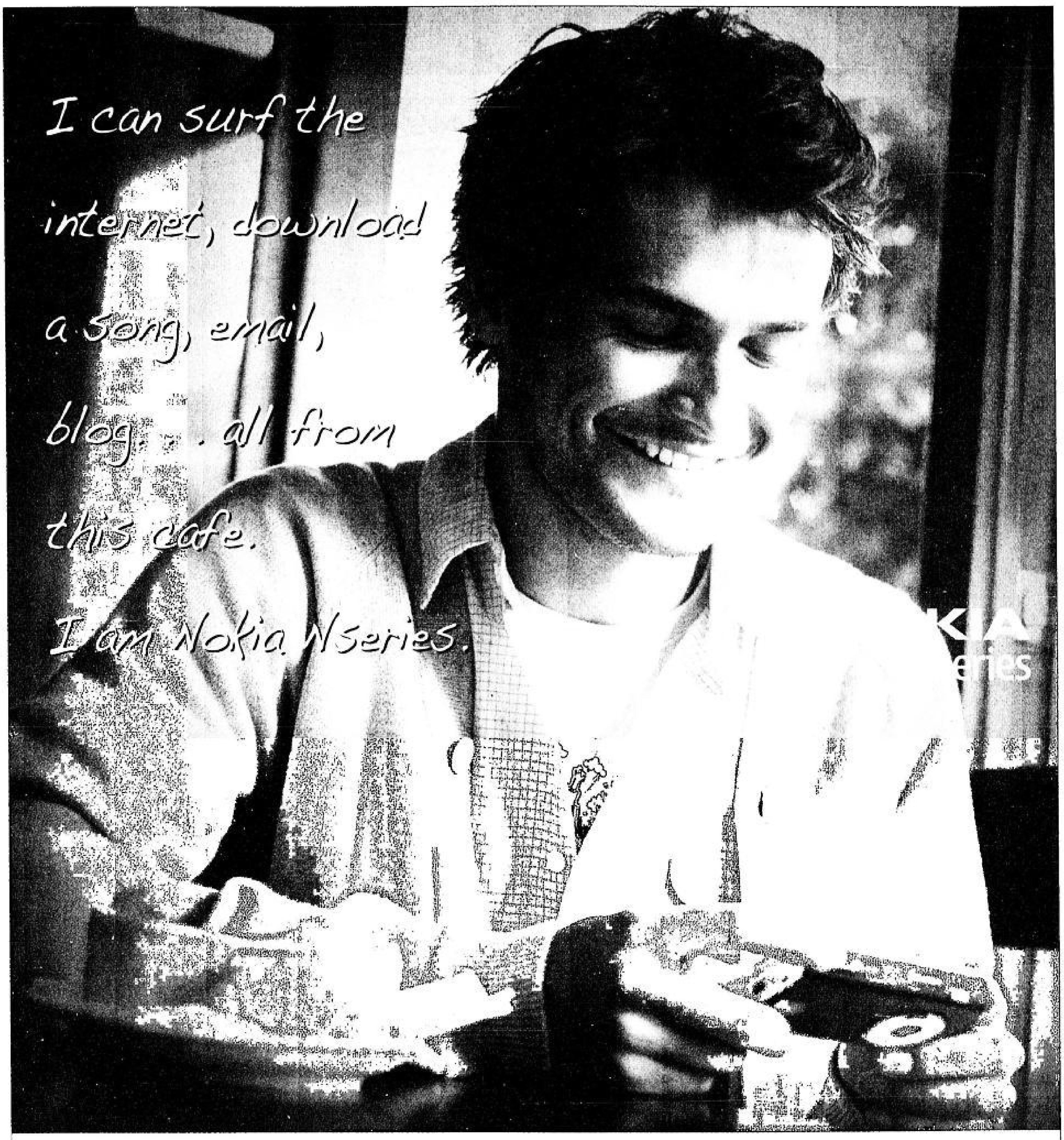

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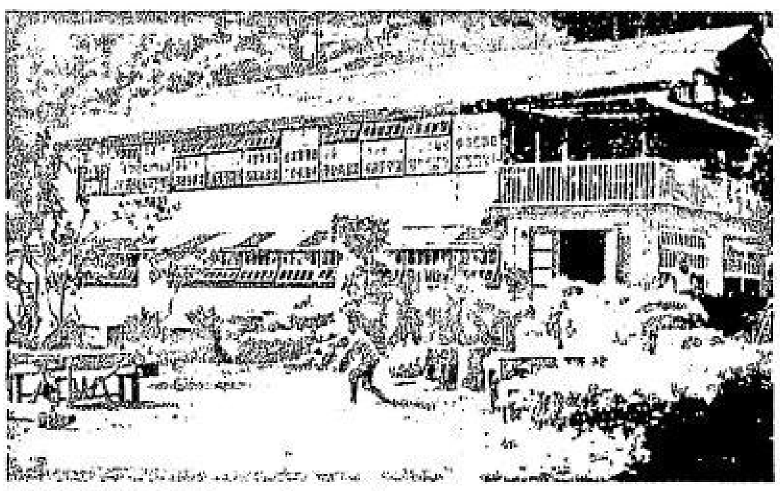
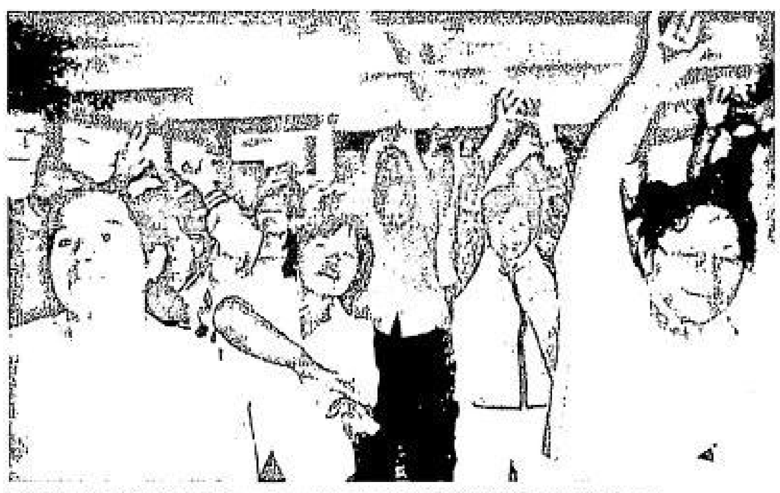
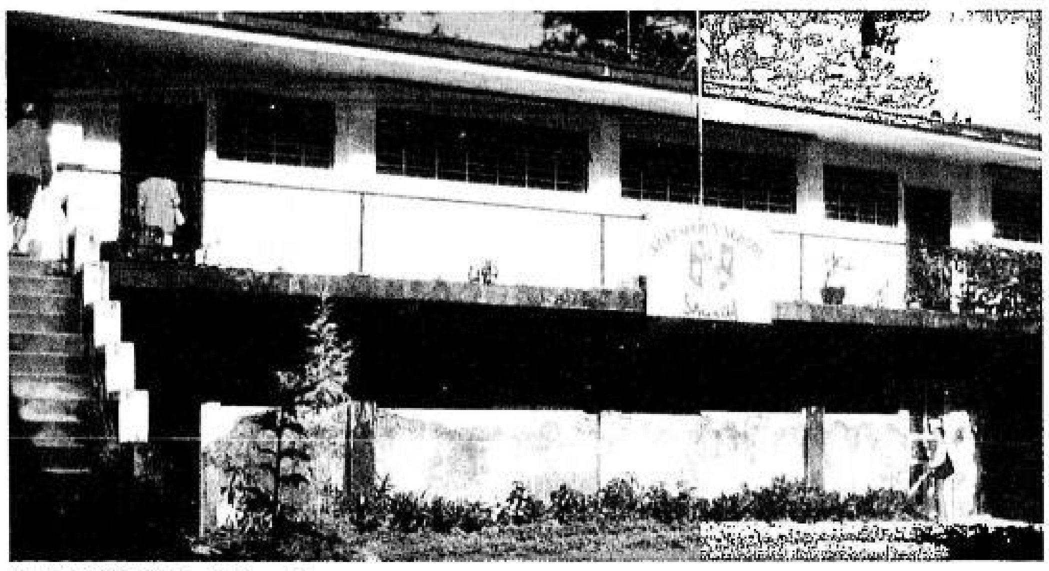
Healed a second time

RICE terraces approaching Sagada

THE TOWN on the way to Sagada


ST. JOSEPH Café, formerly an orphanage


PUBLIC-SCHOOL teachers warm up before the workshop.


ST. MARY'S School, Sagada

From page E1

swooned with long deep ooohs. They took notes about how art education could lessen absenteeism and be an antidote to drug addiction.

Their faces glowed as they became enlightened by what constituted a beautiful picture. They started to connect aesthetics with being a citizen, learning that visual pollution—billboards, advertising banners, garbage thrown indiscriminately—affected the pristine sights of their community.

Close to nature

Sagada has been touted as a Shangri-La visited by local and foreign tourists. Given its distance from "civilization," Sagada has little to worry for now.

The view outside the school auditorium had a sweeping scene of mountains and rice terraces spotted with houses. Greenery and the unique stone terraces still overwhelmed. This workshop on appreciating nature as art had a very practical economic value to Sagada.

My lesson plan on photography as a fine art (woven into it was Philippine history as seen from old photographs) excited the teachers. I incorporated old photographs of the Cordillera taken at the turn of the century.

The teachers were wide-eyed when they saw their ancestors in native garb, the thatched huts their grandparents lived in, the majesty of their stone terraces and the dances.

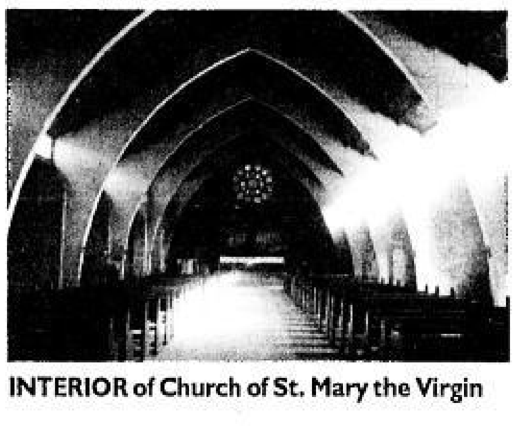
In the Cordillera, people danced on so many occasions and were scrupulously documented in film by anthropologists and missionaries. The women were often bare-breasted and the men wore loincloths. The early missionaries had imposed modest dressing in these parts and the pictures of their half-naked past were unnerving for the older teachers.

The younger teachers, though, were more astute, having been raised to take pride in local customs. Missionary influence had long receded.

Sagada, like many rural areas, has no museums so I taught a module on setting up a simple school museum. Developing an exhibition theme, writing captions and wall text, and producing an exhibit for very little money demystifies curatorship, and the teachers were introduced to yet another pedagogical method.

First Sagada stint

We ended the workshop at 3 p.m. to allow the teachers to get home early. Buses and jeeps plying the route are scarce and unscheduled so the long wait adds to the travel time. Some of the teachers from the rural villages had not been to "big town" Sagada in a while and this was a time to shop or go to the hospital and get checked up.


INTERIOR of Church of St. Mary the Virgin

I got the chance to walk through the town again and see what changes had occurred. My first stop was the orphanage on the hilltop. I saw the playground fronting the orphanage and remembered the many games I played with the children there.

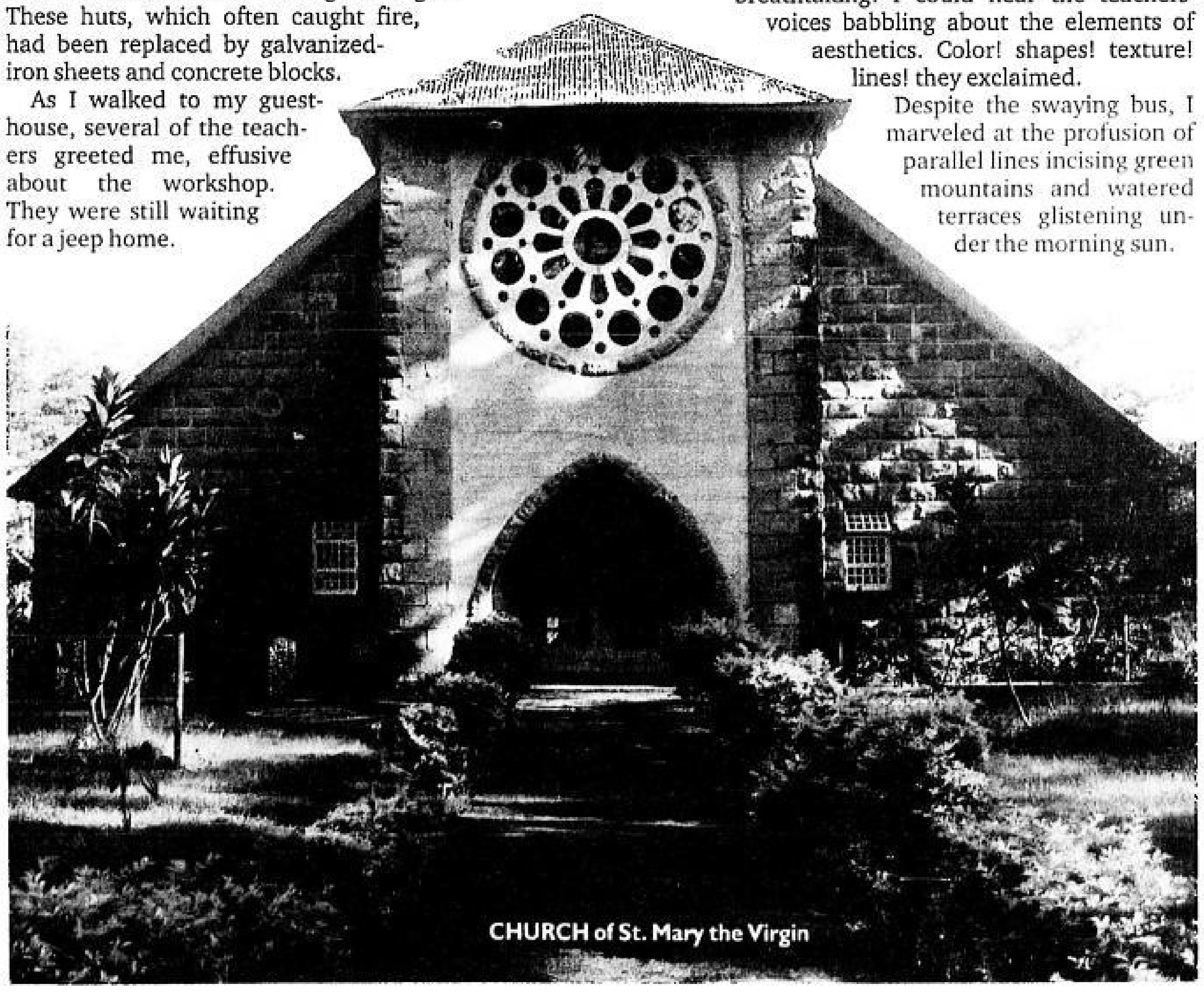
The orphanage had a large number of twins in my days. Twins were bad luck. One of them was thought to have the mother's spirit, so they were buried alive, abandoned or committed to the orphanage.

The spartan dormitory I stayed in for three months was being remodeled into a tourist inn. The one street in the center of the town had several new restaurants but gone were the little stores that sold tribal artifacts.

I walked to the town's entrance and lamented the destruction of the limestone cliffs by local developers. The large cluster of thatched huts were no longer in sight. These huts, which often caught fire, had been replaced by galvanized-iron sheets and concrete blocks.

As I walked to my guesthouse, several of the teachers greeted me, effusive about the workshop. They were still waiting for a jeep home.

A small school in Sagada shows there's still hope for education in the country


CHURCH of St. Mary the Virgin

Back to Baguio

The next morning, I took the first early bus back to Baguio.

It was sunny throughout the whole trip and memories returned. I took this same Halsema Highway years ago on a similar sunny day.

The same exhilaration came over me as the bus gingerly went down the mountain. The same scent of flowers and the same bracing morning air. I had flashbacks of the tearful twins singing to me. They must now be in their 40s, I thought.

First there were glimpses of a terrace; then, halfway down, the mountains unfolded, revealing full vistas of terraces, their lines rounding every contour of every mountain in sight.

A swath of clouds rested on the mountaintops, and way below a river snaked its way. The travel brochures always called it an engineering marvel. I just found it breathtaking. I could hear the teachers' voices babbling about the elements of aesthetics. Color! shapes! texture! lines! they exclaimed.

Despite the swaying bus, I marveled at the profusion of parallel lines incising green mountains and watered terraces glistening under the morning sun.

As we rounded a mountain, the panorama continued as another set of perfectly chiseled mountains came to view. This panoply went unabated for almost the whole bus ride. I laughed out loud, realizing the Sagada teachers were being polite with Mr. Know It All from Manila. Teach them aesthetics? Lines? Hah! Their ancestors were aesthetes for thousands of years.

There were threats to the beauty of the place. Signs at interval on the Halsema Highway forbade the dumping of garbage on the roadside. But the dumping seemed to have continued. Rice terraces and vegetable plots posted signs of fertilizers and chemicals used. In an increasingly organic-oriented world, the signs were anachronistic, threatening both produce and the people's health.

Fate of Cordillera

It is the education of the Cordillera students that will decide the fate of this region. Illiteracy and dropout rate are twice higher in the non-Christian and tribal communities than the national average. The catching-up, the learning curve, the ratcheting-up of student academic achievements in these parts are an imperative.

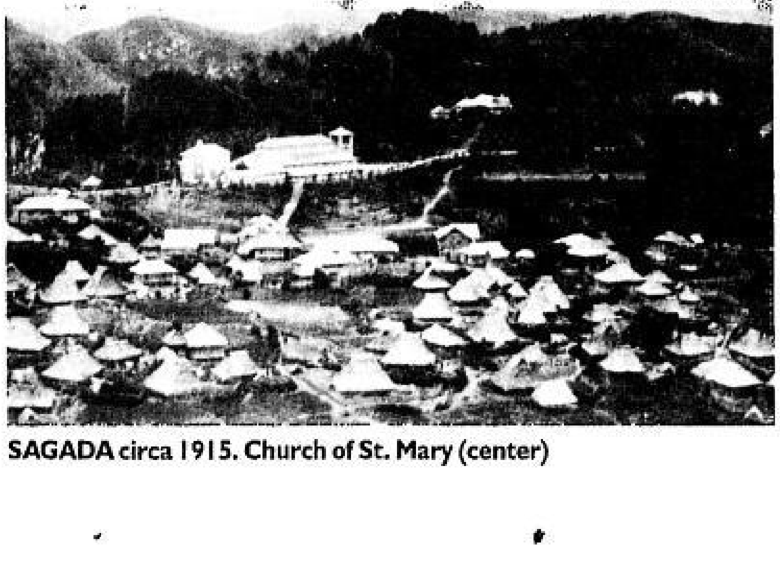
It boils down to good teachers. At St. Mary's, Dennis Faustino, former teacher now principal, is turning a once ailing school around. In just three years, academic achievement has improved with a new core of teachers who are dedicated, well-trained and well-paid, teaching in spanking classrooms and labs brimming with all the necessary equipment. An alumni network and a working board allow Dennis to do his job well.

Bottom-line results? All graduating high-school students have passed the exams and will enter colleges and universities this year. Only two out of every 100 fourth-year high-school students in the country are equipped for college, but St. Mary's graduating class appears to have succeeded despite the odds.

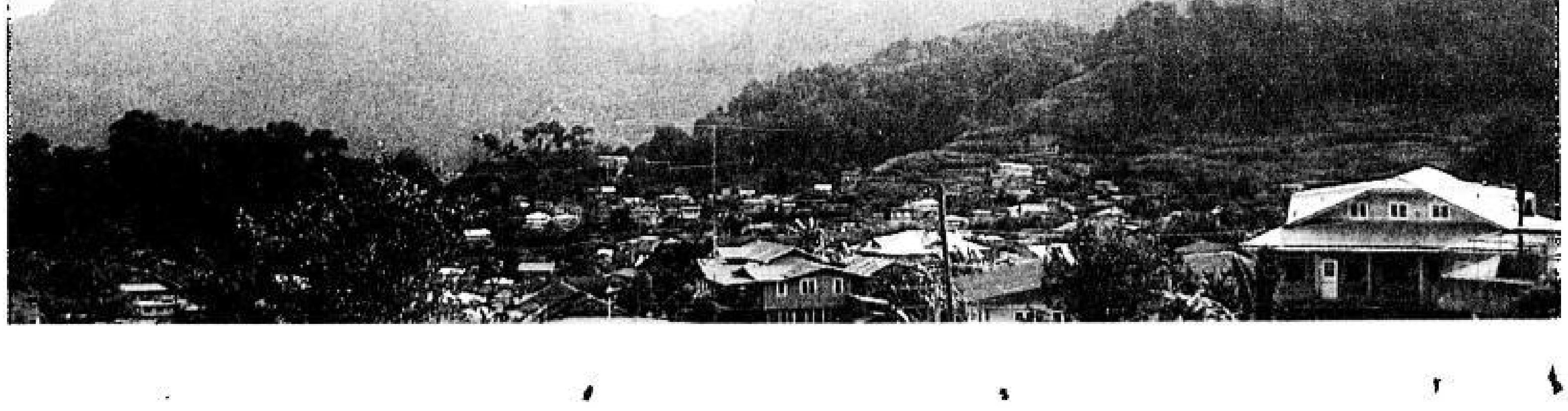
I've traveled the breadth and length of this country, training teachers who try to make do with so little, hold lessons in classrooms so pitifully inadequate, before students who look vacuous because they are deprived of books to read. It just breaks my heart to see the government's neglect of education.

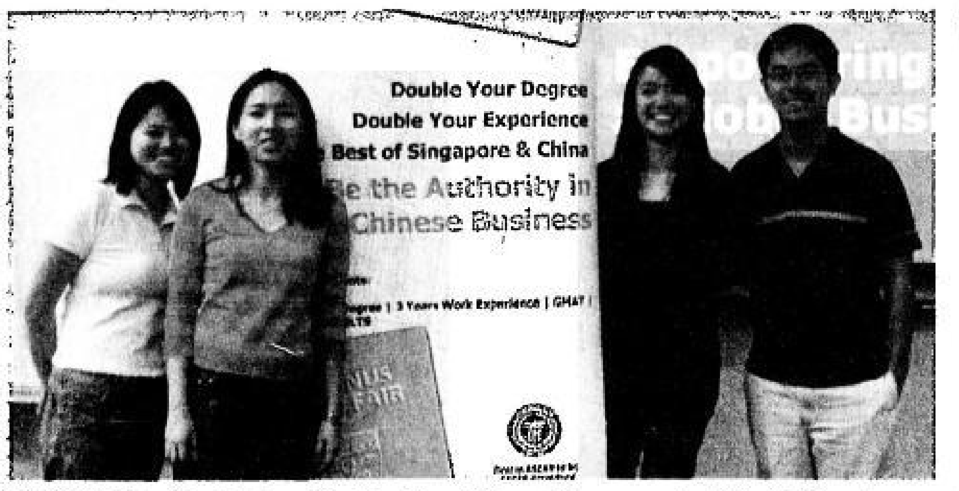
And then I go to Sagada and see a school like St. Mary's: The teachers are dedicated and the students are enthusiastic about learning. Truly, Shangri-La still exists and I am healed a second time.

John L. Silva is the senior consultant for the National Museum.


SAGADA circa 1915. Church of St. Mary (center)

SAGADA mountain range

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NANYANG Academy of Fine Arts' rooftop
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Foreign education but in the Asean neighborhood

Singapore is establishing itself as an international education hub

Text and photos by Rowena C. Burgos

AFTER TAKING UP LEGAL MANAGEMENT at Ateneo de Manila University in 2002, Manuel Sacramento immediately worked as a financial analyst for two years, then as a college lecturer for another two.

Still, the young man from Bicol wanted to expand his horizon. He applied for the National University of Singapore (NUS) Graduate Scholarship for Asean Nationals. Luckily, he was accepted.

"At first, the idea of taking up another academic degree in a foreign land gave me anxiety, uncertainty and even discouragement. But being in the NUS MBA has allowed me to meet brilliant individuals who come from a variety of work backgrounds and professors who are doing cutting-edge research in their fields. Nothing can be more motivating than being in the midst of a well-prepared cohort and a rigorous business curriculum," says Sacramento, who is now in his second year.

With a history spanning four decades, the NUS Business School (1 Business Link, Singapore; tel. (65) 6516-8996; fax (65) 6872-1438; website: www.bschool.nus.edu) has established a tradition for providing a rewarding business education that develops leaders for the global marketplace. In 2006, the NUS MBA was ranked no. 1 by 455 global recruiters as the Most Preferred School in the Asia Pacific to recruit from in the QS TopMBA.com International Recruiter Survey. The program is ranked no. 2 in International Mobility and no. 12 in International Experience in the Financial Times 2007.

"The NUS MBA program content and instructional methods are designed to balance theory and practice, and are constantly updated to align with the best practices and latest innovations. Classes emphasize problem-based learning, cases and group-based discussions. Through fact-finding, analysis and group discussion, students learn to identify problems, think deeply about issues from multiple perspectives, and propose and evaluate solutions," says Yue-Wen Lim, director, Graduate Studies of NUS Business School. "Students also take part in business case competitions, overseas study trips, interactive industry and business dialogue sessions and cultural events to ensure a holistic education and formation."

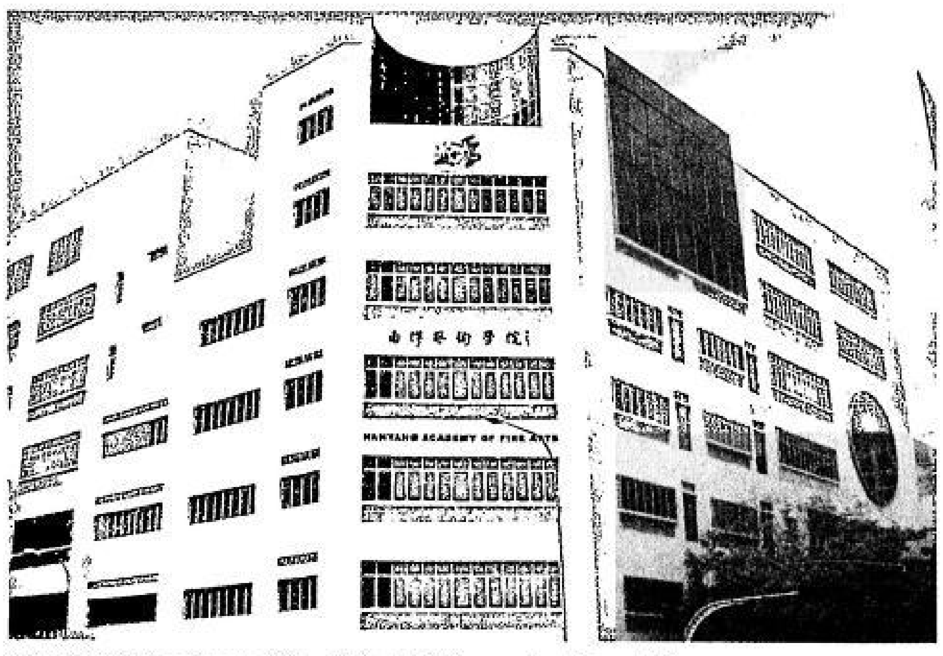
It's no wonder why students from over 50 countries take up their MBA from NUS. In 2005, only 10 Filipino students applied at the NUS MBA. This year, the number grew to 74. Fourteen of the Filipino graduates have been given job placements at Banyan Tree Holdings, Ministry of Social Development, United Nations, Citibank and other international organizations.

For Sacramento, studying in the NUS MBA is "a transforming experience." "Indeed, no other school in the world, even those in the US or Europe, can give students the best of the East and West in management principles—allowing them to truly become global business leaders."

At-sunrice

A Communication Arts graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University, Bettina Arguelles worked in an advertising firm then went to Singapore to take up culinary arts at at-sunrice, The Singapore Culinary Academy and Spice Garden (Fort Canning Park, Fort Canning Centre, Singapore; tel. (65) 6336-3307; fax (65) 6336-9353; website: www.at-sunrice.com).

"It doesn't matter if you have a different academic background or work experience. As long as you have the passion for cooking, you'll surely make it in the culinary world," Arguelles says. "And Singapore is an ideal place to pursue such passion because it presents a myriad of flavors in the various cuisine styles."



NANYANG Academy of Fine Arts at 80 Bencoolen Street, Singapore
SINGAPORE TOURISM BOARD

PAULINE de Leon and Jeroel Leyble, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts

DIORELLE Sy, Raffles Design Institute

JEWEL Joaquinlao, Bettina Arguelles, Johann Ang and Kwan Lui (founder of at-sunrice, The Singapore Culinary Academy and Spice Garden)

Founded in 2001 by Kwan Lui, at-sunrice offers diploma and certified programs, including a Bachelor's degree in Culinary Arts, a first in Southeast Asia. The academy focuses on Old and New World, Eastern and Western cuisines, herbs and spices and work and study rotations at hotels, restaurants and luxury homes.

"Students not only receive a world-class culinary foundation taught by a team of global ethnic chefs, but they are also guaranteed paid work experience at top five-star hotels, restaurant and food service companies to give them a more complete and well-rounded education," Kwan says. "But to succeed in the field, one has to be skillful and academically knowledgeable about the industry. Have the desire to achieve, persevere and accomplish in this craft."

Arts students

Diorelle Sy has been studying Fashion Design at Raffles Design Institute (RDI) for two years now. She took up Manufacturing Engineering at De La Salle University for one year. "I wanted to try something new so I went to Singapore."

RDI (99 Beach Road, Singapore: tel. (65) 63385288; fax (65) 63380306; website: www.raffles-design-institute.edu.sg) was established in 1990 dedicated to the professional design disciplines of fashion, interior, digital media, product and jewelry design and visual communication (graphic design). State-of-the-art technology applications and exposure to work with industry professionals give students the opportunity to work on projects that enhance their experience and portfolios. During work attachments, students establish valuable networks with companies that often become their future employers.

Jeroel Leyble and Pauline de Leon are both in their first year, taking up Visual Arts at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) (80 Bencoolen Street, Singapore; tel. (65) 6512-4000; fax (65) 6337-3920; website: www.nafa.edu.sg).

Established in 1938, NAFA has grown into a full-fledged arts institution, producing a long line of artists, performers, designers and illustrious alumni. Today, NAFA has earned an international reputation for its high-quality curricula, innovative teaching, artistic creations and community outreach.

De Leon and Leyble both find it hard to understand the English accent of their classmates but they have learned to adjust. "I have to speak English with a Singaporean accent so they can understand me," says de Leon, who lives in a students' hostel.

On the other hand, Leyble enjoys the company of his parents and two younger siblings, who also study in Singapore. They moved to the country when Leyble enrolled at NAFA. "In order to survive a new environment, one has to be open-minded," he says.

Educational hub

Filipinos Manuel Sacramento, Bettina Arguelles, Diorelle Sy, Jeroel Leyble and Pauline de Leon are some of the 80,000 international students who have discovered Singapore as "a value for money educational hub."

"School and tuition fees have remained affordable and the cost of living in Singapore is still significantly lower than that of many developed countries. Public institutes of higher learning such as polytechnics and local universities offer tuition grants of up to 80 percent of the tuition fees in either diploma or undergraduate programs. There is a wide range of accommodation, meal and transport options to cater to different budgets and needs as well," says John Conceicao, assistant director, Education Market Development Department of Singapore Education (1 Orchard Spring Lane, Singapore; tel. (65) 6736-6622; DID (65) 6831-3465; fax (65) 6736-9423; website: www.singaporeedu.gov.sg).

Conceicao adds that public education in Singapore is heavily subsidized and international students enjoy subsidies. For example, an international student at the university level will typically pay undergraduate fees of S$8,000 per year for a non-laboratory based course. The cost of education differs depending on the course structure and educational institution.

At the tertiary level, international students who take up the tuition grant, which is available to all qualified candidates, are required to work for three years upon graduation, either in Singapore or with a Singapore-registered institution overseas.

Singapore has attracted many leading foreign universities such as University of Nevada, Las Vegas' William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration, INSEAD, University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, Tisch School of the Arts and S.P. Jain Centre of Management, which have set up Asian campuses in Singapore. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Stanford University have collaborations with local universities through joint post-graduate degree programs.

"For students at these leading foreign universities, although tuition fees may be comparable to those of the main campuses, the lower cost of living here, proximity to home, in addition to an internationally welcoming environment makes it a choice alternative," Conceicao says.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Marketing campaign

Pan Pacific Hotels and Resorts is one of the participating brands in an extensive marketing campaign launched recently by the Global Hotel Alliance (GHA), the world's largest alliance of independent hotel brands. The campaign is being undertaken in collaboration with Star Alliance Network, the largest airline alliance.

The Pan Pacific group is a founding member of GHA (www.globalhotelalliance.com), currently consisting of seven luxury brands. Kicking off the marketing campaign is Travel the World in Style, a competition among guests booking a hotel stay through www.globalhotelalliance.com. It ends Nov. 30.

In Manila, Pan Pacific (www.panpacific.com, 5360788) is the only five-star deluxe hotel offering butler service.

International music festival

The 21st Macau International Music Festival (MIMF) will be held Oct. 1-31. It is presented by the Cultural Affairs Office of the Macau SAR (special autonomous region) government. The MIMF brings internationally renowned artists from all over the world. Performances of the musicians, orchestras, choirs and singers are set in a number of different venues ranging from churches and theaters to open-air spaces and park pavilions. The Macau Government Tourist Office is at Suite 11-D, Valero Tower, 122 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City; tel. 8122595/ 8130947, www.macautourism.gov.mo.

Exclusive 5-year deal

Amadeus, a leading global technology partner for the travel and tourism industry, has signed an exclusive five-year deal with Global Marine Travel (GMT). The new partnership will enable six GMT locations worldwide to access the Amadeus Selling Platform, a browser-based point-of-sale platform providing travel agents with a wider selection of flights at the most competitive prices when making customer bookings. Albert Villadolid, general manager Amadeus Philippines, said the company's state-of-the-art technology covering the widest range of air and non-air services had made it the partner of choice for many travel companies.

Win a trip to Singapore

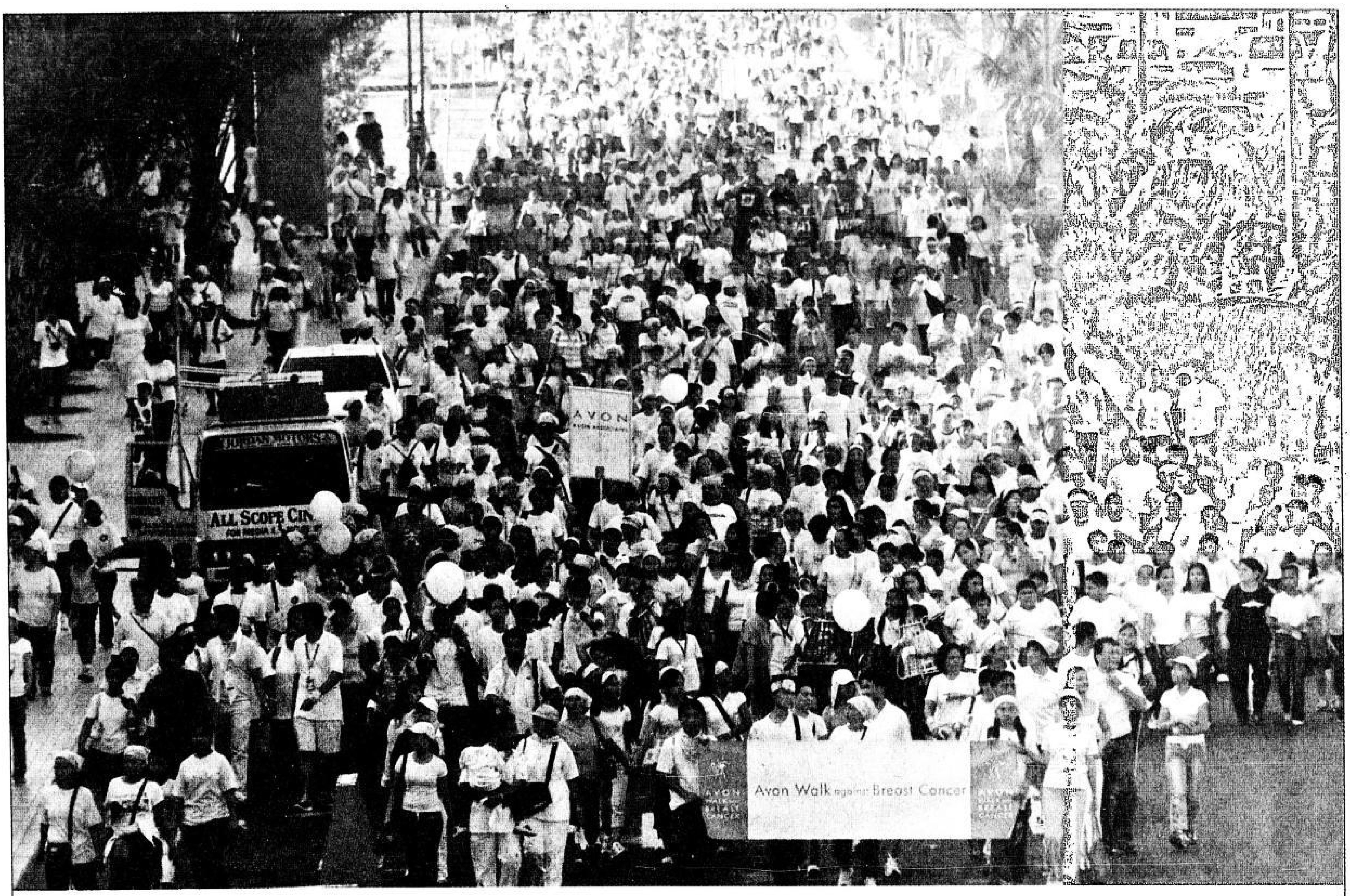
Singapore Tourism Board-Philippines (8130946, e-mail stbphils@pacific.net.ph) has launched "Tara na sa Singapore!" The nationwide raffle promotion gives Filipinos more reasons to fly to the Lion City and enjoy its diverse culture, various attractions, food, shopping, nightlife and events. Rocson Chang, area director of STB-P, said the new promo was a celebration of another year of strong growth and a reward for Filipinos' continuing interest in Singapore. Filipinos have to travel within the promo period that ends Nov. 30, stay for at least three nights for a chance to win return trips for two, inclusive of round-trip air tickets and a four-day, three-night stay in a five-star hotel. Five winners will be picked from Luzon, three winners from Cebu and two from Mindanao.

Door-to-door delivery

Dubai-based ABDA Cargo Services LCC, through its local partner The Transnational Diversified Group (TDG), is introducing the ABDABAG Worldwide Baggage Delivery Service. Baggage and personal effects can be transported to and from 220 countries using a web application at Abdabag.com. Any baggage will be picked up from home, office, hotel, factory or any location with postal address, transported to the recipient. Delivery is door-to-door. Abdabag is available online (www.abdabag.com) or through selected travel agents.

New airline destination

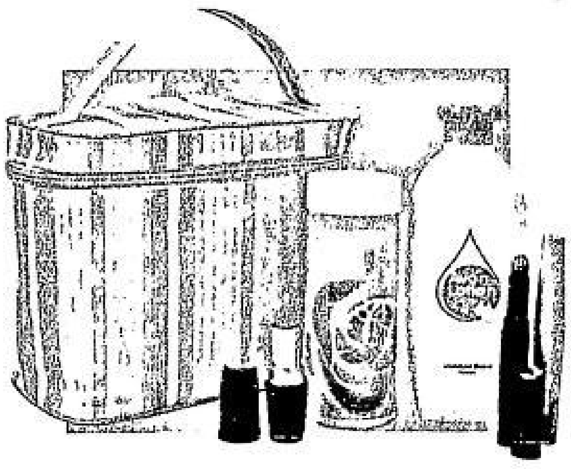
South East Asian Airlines (Seair) has announced flights to Pagadian City, the provincial capital of Zamboanga del Sur, from Cebu every Monday and Thursday. The Cebu-Pagadian-Cebu route is in line with the Clark-based airline's expansion plans for this year. After opening a regional hub in Zamboanga City in 2002, Seair now flies to Jolo and Tawi-Tawi on a daily basis and to Cotabato every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Present for the inaugural flight at the Pagadian Airport were President Macapagal-Arroyo and Tourism Secretary Ace Durano. Call Seair Manila at 8490100; Cebu at 032-3414879; and Pagadian at 062-2153831 or 35.


AVON
ALL SCOPE CIN
Avon Walk against Breast Cancer
AVON WALK AGAINST BREAST CANCER

Walk for a Healthier Tomorrow

Join the Avon Walk Against Breast er

October 7, 6.00 am - Manila (SM Mall of Asia)
October 14, 6.00 am - Baguio (Melvin Jones Park)
October 21, 6.00 am - Iloilo (Avon branch)



YES, you can help more than 10,000 women diagnosed with breast cancer every year.

All it takes is one small step with Avon to make a difference in the lives of all the women you love.

- For a P125 donation, you can join the walk and get a commemorative T-shirt.
- For a P525 donation, you get a thank you gift worth P1,680, free registration to the walk, and the T-shirt.
- For every purchase of Avon's Skin-So-Soft Ultra Healing Hand and Body Lotion this October, a donation of P5 goes to the Breast Cancer Fund.

Skin So Soft

Proceeds from this year's walk go to General Hospital-Breast Care Center, Baguio General Hospital, and the Western Visayas Regional Hospital.

Together with Avon, you can help millions win the fight against bre

I walk with You
for a healthier tomorrow.
AVON WALK against BREAST CANCER 2007

For inquiries and registration, go to any Avon branch in Metro Manila, Dagupan, Baguio & Iloilo or call the Avon help desk (02) 864-2900 or (02) 864-2902 or contact Enrie Legaspi of Stratworks at [illegible] 3805/06

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2007

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

tyle@inquirer.com.ph
inquirer.net/lifestyle

IN THIS ISSUE
Charge the good life to one all-purpose card /F4

The advantages of dying

WE MISS YOU
get well
Get Well
StephB.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

ON THE DAY THEY brought me to the hospital I dreamt of my dead son. He was at some door marked "Exit" and seemed to be managing traffic. "I'll take care of this one," he said officiously, referring to me. So I didn't die. I wasn't that sick. I was only meant to go to the hospital.

"Who, mommy? Not daddy??" The kids exclaimed when they got the emergency text. (He's supposed to be sicker than I).

Since I have never been good at attending wakes or visiting the sick, I didn't realize how comforting it was to have people fussing over you, storming heaven with prayers (*medyo nakakahiya*) and receiving so many flowers that you don't deserve.

How come everybody knew! (The wonders of technology!) "Don't leave us *naman*," Babeth Lolarga wailed. Neil Garcia reportedly wept, and some gay designers too, that I hardly knew, because I was their "role model." Cecile Z said that when she heard, tears rolled down her cheeks into her hamburger sandwich. It was hilarious. Danny Dalena texted a dirty joke. When she came by, I put green eyeshadow on Sylvia Ventura. Jimmy Laya texted me to get well because we were to go dancing with the gang.

In the hospital somebody called to ask, "*Kumusta na si* Gilda?" The maid who was holding my cellphone answered, "*Mabuti naman po.*" "*Nasan siya*?" the caller asked. "*Nasa* operating room *po*."

Chit Roces sat and chanted Zen "ohms" and Edna Manlapaz lit a candle.

Of lepers and martyrs

Carmen Tiongco said she prayed to Damian, the saint of lepers (!?), and to "Maximilian Shaw," the saint of desperate cases, "who witnessed a Jew about to be shot by a Nazi and offered to give up his life instead." *(Our resident ecclesiastical specialist, Lito B. Zulueta, says there's no St. Maximilian Shaw, but there is a St. Maximilian Kolbe, a Franciscan conventual friar — Ed.)*

Ishilta's prayer read: Teyatha om, Bhekanze, Bhekanze Maha, Bhekanze Maha, Bhekanze Radza, Samung gate solra.

From Gigi D, my *babaeng bakla* pal in the West Indies, I got this e-mail: "*O* say *mo*, *manash*, welcome back to the land of the living! I will give you my salad recipe *pero baka* knowing *mo* na: Green papaya, grated, with vinaigrette; my vinaigrette is: crushed *bawang*, *sibuyas na hiniwa-hiwa* finely, put a bit of salt and grind them into the garlic and *sibuyas*, *para* may i come out *ang* juice. *Bagis*, lime juice *i*-join, meat or vegetable stock, a spoonful, pepper *tapos* olive oil. Whisk to death all the ingredients until well blended. *I*-join *sa* green papaya, toss well. Throw in finely sliced red and yellow pepper *para sa* color *effectutay*. *Masarap* and the *bawang* and *sibuyas* is good for circulation.

With so much love and prayers and incantations and voodoo, who would dare not get well?

Soon it was in Cecile Zamora's blog (my illness and their visit). "Better than INQUIRER," someone said. "Everybody reads it." Since I am a computer illit, it was left to my husband to access the site. So there he is, my old man with a cloud of white hair, hunched over the keyboard, eyebrows knit, trying to figure out where in heavensname "Chuvaness," this very hip blog, can ever be found.

I told him "chuvaness" meant "Whatever." But I wasn't sure so I asked Manny Chaves. Manny said all he knew was what he had overheard at a party.

"*Ano ba talaga ang chuva*?"
"*Pareho ng chever*"
"*E ano ang chever*?"
"*Same as chowa*." (Gee, thanks)

Fashion visit

The fashion girls had come to visit me at home. So what do 30s to 40s people talk about? A new cosmetic that will make the hair of your eyelashes "fat." How to keep a skinny model figure without being anorexic: take a carbo blocker with every piece of pie and Senecal with every slice of meat. "So what do you do if you have to go?" (I will not pursue that one).

To impress them, I bragged that Satur Ocampo phoned to cheer me up. But they were more impressed when Celine said that it was Michael Bublé who called up a convalescing Pepper Teehankee.

Before you older readers throw your arms up in dismay, may I inform you that these girls, Cecile Zamora, Celine Lopez, Patty Eustaquio and Kate Torralba, are hardworking talented young clothes designers profitably selling their own labels. And Myrza Sison is the editorial director of Summit Media. (Sorry I can't reply to that blog because my old man's still looking for it).

It was such a fun visit that I had a relapse afterwards.

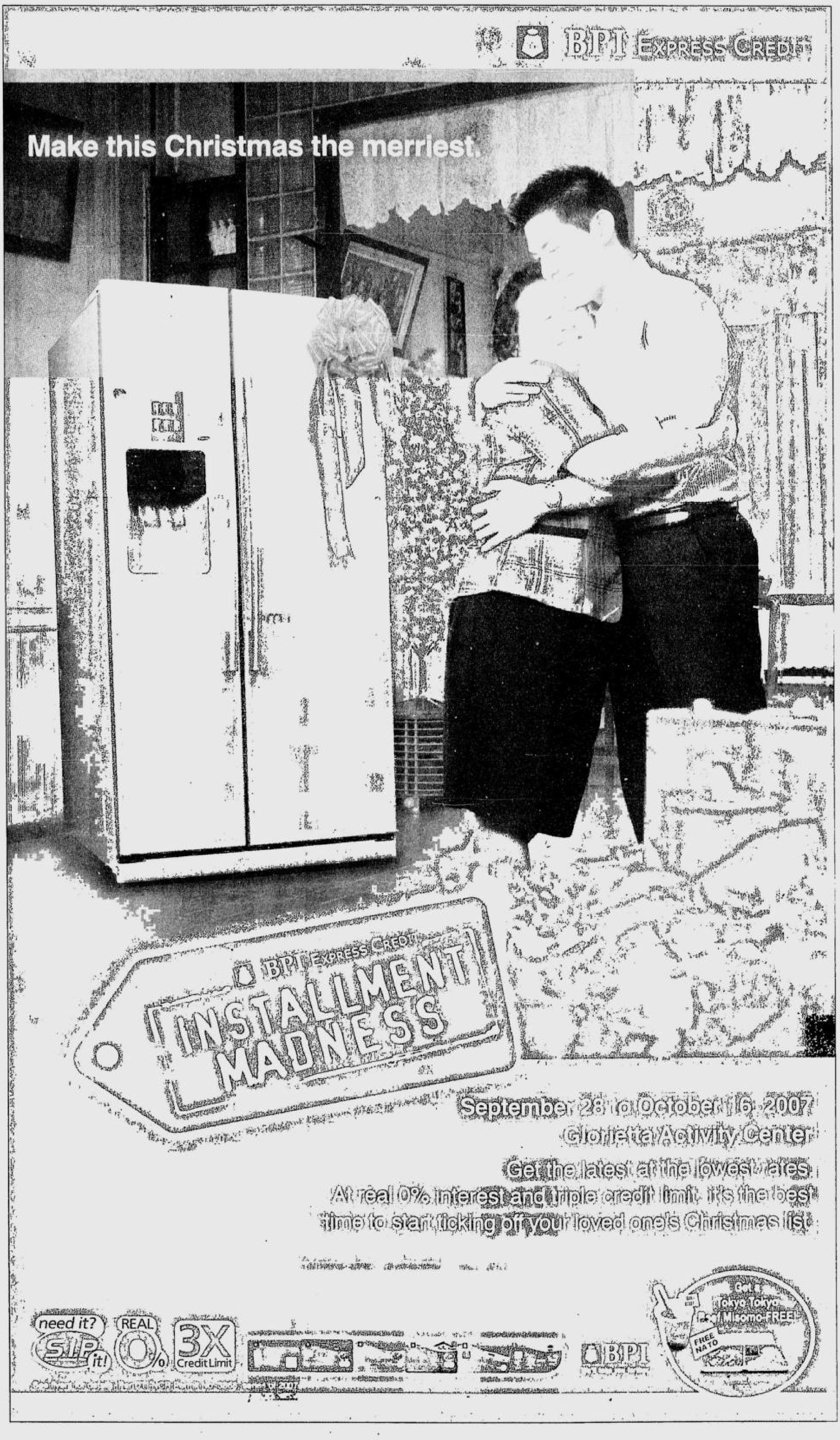
> When word spreads that you've been snatched from the jaws of death, people you've not seen in a long, long time pop up

From now on I swear that everything I will eat is organic. Like the healthy *chicharon* of Ambeth Ocampo's aunt which is fried in canola oil. And the organic *lechon* of Reimon Gutierrez whose pigs are fed discarded arugula leaves from his biodynamic farm.

Ballroomers' visit

Another day it was my Friday group of ballroom dancers who came to the house. Rose Sison had expressed a wish to visit me and I had texted back "Take the dancers, I

THE ADVANTAGES/ F3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INSTALLMENT MADNESS
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Get the latest at the lowest rates.
At real 0% interest and triple credit limit, it's the best time to start ticking off your loved one's Christmas list.
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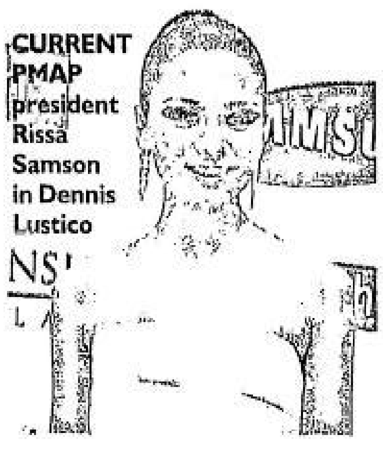
PMAP members Marilen Espino and Lou Bunyi-Bareja

PMAP members Gem Padilla, Izza Gonzales, Patti Betita, Desiree Verdadero-Abesamis and Suyene Chi-Sia


CURRENT PMAP president Rissa Samson in Dennis Lustico

SAMSUNG mobile group head Fe Varilla

Glitz, glam and giving back

At PMAP's 20th anniversary bash, the pillars of the fashion industry put up a lavish show that tapped into the pride and energy emanating from the models

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

LIFE AND FASHION ARE EVER changing. Their fickleness is as unpredictable as death and as certain as taxes.

To those that closely orbit the fashion solar system, predicting the future's colors and styles is actually a cycle. Designers set the benchmarks for trendy couture. Afterward, we are left to mangle their visions with our individual horror stories of fashion disasters.

How nostalgic, then, to attend the 20th anniversary of the Professional Models Association of the Philippines (PMAP) a few weeks ago at The Peninsula Manila, held in cooperation with Samsung and Rustan's Essenses. It was a glitzy gathering of current and former members, all of them individual fashion setters in their own right, together under one roof in the spirit of camaraderie and, of course, glamour.

With the support of Metrobank Femme Visa, Bench, Belo Medical Group, Moet & Chandon Champagne, Hennessy Cognac, Absolut Vodka, Jim Beam, Yellow Tail wine and Fiamma, the grand, stylish gala witnessed five generations of the country's best models sharing the same runway. From its humble beginnings two decades back, the PMAP family has reached an awesome milestone, and it deserves such a fitting tribute.

Anxiously waiting to enter the main Rigodon Ballroom while enjoying the sumptuous cocktails at the beautifully decorated Peninsula lobby, the delighted guests were feeling energetic and exuberant at the display of fashion creations by the country's top designers. Later on, seeing the runway divas of the past and present was the proverbial icing on the cake.

Current PMAP president **Rissa Samson**, with the rest of her fabulous court, and event director **Jackie Aquino** staged an extraordinary fashion production that brought the fashion world even closer together with fond memories and boundless friendship.

The pillars of the industry, like **Auggie Cordero** and **Inno Sotto**, and some very talented participating fashion designers put up a lavish fashion display that tapped into the pride and energy emanating from the models.

The future for the local modeling industry is indeed very bright, and can only get stronger from hereon. **Apples Aberin-Sadhwani**, former PMAP president and fashion guru of this paper, said the sense of camaraderie, unity and friendship achieved that evening was "unparalleled."

The energy continued at the after-party in Fiamma, where models, designers, directors and fashion-industry friends had a fab bonding time. I salute the PMAP models for their professionalism and for an awesome 20th-year celebration.

Prestigious mag

The Peninsula Manila's Lobby/Rigodon dual venue has been a fashionable destination of late. The oldest and most prestigious lifestyle magazine in America, Town & Country, made its Philippine debut using the same dual locale.

The launch featured **Ponce Veridiano** elegantly converting the Pen Lobby into a spectacular tropical garden where the most ravishing, by-invitation-only guests enjoyed bottomless champagne. At the main ballroom, the team behind the Philippine edition of Town & Country—**Monique Villonco** as editor, **Mia Borromeo** as editor-at-large and **Tara Santos** as associate publisher—invited their guests to view "The Best of Filipino Living," an exhibition and sale of art, antiques, furniture, jewelry and accessories for the benefit of Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation.

Conceptualized jointly by T&C's **Mia** and **Junie Rodriguez**, the beautiful vignettes showcasing outstanding Filipino and Asian design included an oil painting by National Artist **Bencab**; jewelry by **Jul B. Dizon** and **Wynn Wynn Ong**; and accessories by **Bea Valdes** and Celestina. There were also wooden furniture pieces to die for, but my absolute favorite was a beaded, feathery, bright red bag by Bea.

The magazine's first edition has an in-depth cover story on **Lizzie Eder Zobel**, one of the stalwarts behind Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation. Getting to know the woman of tycoon **Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala**'s life makes it a must-read. Congratulations are truly in order for the team behind Summit Media's latest magazine, a truly glossy addition to its stable of 25 titles.

Co-presented by Citigold, the wealth management service of Citibank, and The Peninsula Manila, the launch was also made possible by Samsung, Belvedere, Hennessy and Rustan's. Special guest **Jeanette Chang**, senior VP and international publishing director of Hearst Magazines International, flew in from New York just to attend the affair.

Champagne and wine flowed until the wee hours as the dance party continued with the music of DJ **Cocoy Puyat** and The Bloomfields. With a launch like this, Town & Country will surely add more elegance and refinement to the print world that covers our Pinoy lifestyle.

Joyous event

While on the topics of life and fashion, let me also just mention a small but significant event held recently at Rustan's. **Criselda Lontok** showcased her latest collection, one that fits both the young and the young at heart.

Rustan's doyenne, **Nena Tantoco**, introduced the classic designer to the well-heeled crowd, noting that the proceeds of the show were for the benefit of CRIBS, a foundation that cares for abandoned and abused children in our poverty-stricken society.

Coincidentally, the show also marked Criselda's nth birthday celebration, so it was truly joyous in all respects. It's always commendable when charity is part of the celebrations in our lives.

In closing, I would like to invite all to the annual Assumption Alumnae Association's "Assumption Bazaar." The event is being held today until 7 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Intercontinental.

As always, a great variety of local products and crafts, export overruns, gourmet goodies and more are for sale at amazing prices. Tickets are available at the bazaar entrance. Remember: When you spend at the Assumption Bazaar, it is all for the benefit of the Assumption Mission Schools.

E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

FORMER PMAP president Tweety de Leon-Gonzales

PMAP member Angel Agustin-Co and former PMAP president Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

PEN Manila GM David and Marilu Batchelor

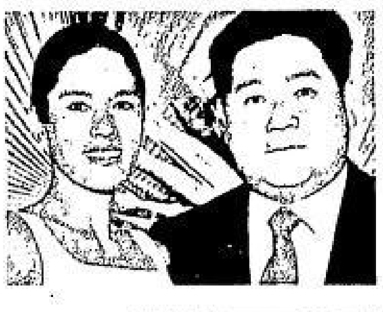
GORGEOUS designer Criselda Lontok between Menchu Concepcion and Meldy Cojuangco

ELEGANT ladies Cristina Ponce Enrile and Diana Santos

TOP designer Inno Sotto and Josie Lichauco

CRISELDA friends Mary Prieto and Marilou Lovina

Town&Country
TOWN & Country team art director Manny Chaves, editor-at-large Mia Borromeo, editor Monique Villonco and associate publisher Tara Santos



STORE Specialists couple Nina and Anton Huang (above); Pops Fernandez

PREVIEW magazine editor Pauline Suaco-Juan and her team: Mariane Perez, Agoo Bengzon and Vince Uy

SAMSUNG'S Penn Roque and Joey Anciano

COOL couples Ram and Emi Jorge and Tippi and Ito Ocampo

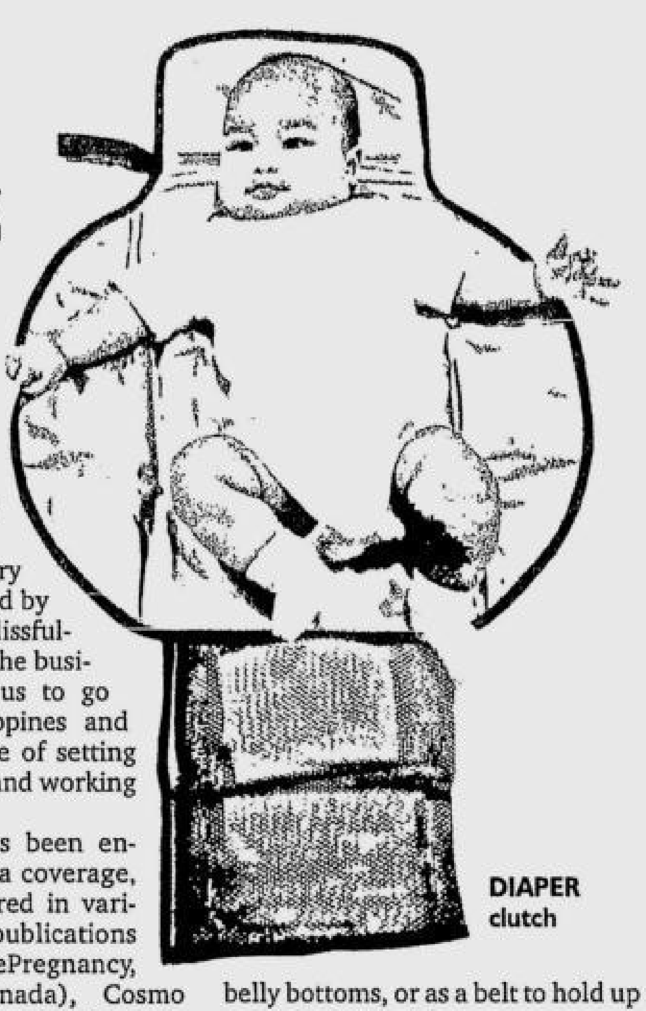
LOVELY couple Mellie and Louie Ablaza

TOWN & Country guests Vicky Zubiri, Gina Roxas and Chary Aboitiz

FASHIONABLE ladies Nina Garcia and Mandy Santos with T&C contributor Jon-jon Rufino

ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Babao-Guballa

Finding bliss in a home biz


DIAPER clutch

BUDING AQUINO-DEE IS A proudly Pinay WAHMer, and she does it with great passion.

A WAHMer, for the uninitiated, is a Work-At-Home-Mom. Buding is a thirtysomething mom and entrepreneur living in Canada when she created the award-winning business Blissfulbabes (www.blissfulbabes.com), which is now making waves in the United States and Canada. The good news is, Buding, together with husband Dudu, have come back to the Philippines and their label is now available locally.

TRANSITION Tubes

Blissfulbabes is a boutique brand of nursing wear found in fine retail stores across North America, Europe, Australia and Japan. The award-winning company behind the brand has been the West Coast's foremost breastfeeding-friendly company since 1999. Its patented nursing bra upgrade, the Corsierre, is a celebrated winner of an iParenting Media Award.

Other products in the Blissfulbabes Nursing wear line include Mother and Baby Graphic Tee sets and the Transition Tube(tm) Bellybands. In addition to these, Blissfulbabes offers modern baby and parenting gear, and its latest offering is the Diaper Clutch, a stylish clutch that converts to a changing pad.

The clutch has handy mesh pockets for diapers and baby wipes and has an extra wide surface area made to accommodate even the squirmiest of babies. The side strap lets you hang it conveniently onto your stroller.

Buding says hands-on moms (and dads) adore this "necessary accessory," which gives the whole diaper-changing experience a makeover.

"This fold-and-go change pad is perfect for little diaper divas or dudes. This all-in-one diaper clutch is a compact version of a diaper bag and is all you need to transform you and the baby into the ultimate quick-change artists."

Admirable passion

This young mom's passion for her business is both admirable and infectious. While living in Vancouver, Buding was honored with an Entrepreneur of the Year Award for the home-based business category. And as if tending to a growing business wasn't enough, she was also a certified breastfeeding counselor, extended nurser and self-proclaimed lactivist as well.

As a personal advocacy, together with some friends from Poveda, she co-founded LATCH Inc. (www.theperfectlatch.com), a nonprofit organization that now works with the Philippines' top hospitals to offer quality lactation education and services. Buding says it is LATCH's mission to take the guesswork out of breastfeeding. The method is very personalized and interactive.

"LATCH conducts fun, friendly and interactive workshops on breastfeeding. We use props, play games and teach using multimedia presentations. Our signature breakout groups ensure a more personalized approach. We also have packages for corporate clients who wish to begin a lactation support program for working mothers," she explains.

Buding, who knows all about how difficult it can be to be a working mom, decided with her husband Dudu to come home to the Philippines so they could devote more time to sons Toby, 7, and Colby, who is all of four months.

"We are really very thankful and blessed by the success of Blissfulbabes," she says. "The business has allowed us to go back to the Philippines and create the ideal life of setting up a business here and working from home."

Blissfulbabes has been enjoying global media coverage, having been featured in various international publications like Fit Pregnancy, ePregnancy, Baby Guide (Canada), Cosmo (Australia) and Parents (France), and in various local glossies as well.

The top-selling and stylish nursing wear line is great for breastfeeding on-the-go moms and for moms who pump at work. The stylish nursing tops feature forgiving fits and design details that make them wearable long after you have weaned your baby.

Chic, functional cover-up

In addition to nursing wear, Buding has also created the Transition Tube, a functional and stylish cover-up for both nursing moms and other mommies who wish to conceal the "heavier parts" of their anatomy. These Transition Tubes were inspired by Japanese obi belts; now they are used to hold up pants or lengthen tops. It's the one accessory and wardrobe extender you will need for pregnancy and after.

While pregnant, the belt can be used to cover unbuttoned pants, as an instant waistband for under-the-belly bottoms, or as a belt to hold up loose-fitting clothing.

In the post-partum weeks and months, it also acts as a great belly cover while you nurse, giving you a stylish double-layer look.

The Blissfulbabes collection will make its debut in the Philippines at the Tickled Pink Bazaar, "the bazaar to end all bazaars," on Oct. 19-20 at the Rockwell Tent, which will be open 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Tickled Pink will feature rarely seen items in the Philippine market, mostly products for export such as fashion wear and accessories, menswear, children's clothing and toys, home accessories, gifts, and a wide array of food.

The bazaar will benefit the ICanServe Foundation, whose mission is to empower breast-cancer survivors and their loved ones with information and hope. For more information, call ICanServe at 6873942 or visit www.icanserve.net.

E-mail the author at cathybabao@gmail.com or visit her blog at www.nancydrewandme.blogspot.com

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The advantages...

From page F1

will prepare *merienda*." But I forgot! When they trooped in, I had to scrounge the fridge and empty the Tupperwares. But Techi Velasquez graciously assured me that the leftovers were fine. They also affirmed that I was the worst ballroom dancing pupil of all time. In fact, Roger, the only DI who indulged me, had left for Argentina to teach tango to the Argentinians. Elma Dizon's and Ben Chan's flowers bloomed away on the table between Fe Fernandez, Sylvia Ventura, Mary Morato and DI Rod.

Rio Almario came with Karina Bolasco and Wendell Capili. Ning T asked him, "May I know your name?" The national artist at least knew who Ning was. Cheloy Dans came with Bencab and Annie, taking plate-size anthuriums he had grown in his garden in Baguio. I wore the Japanese clogs given by Shoko. I wore the jacket given by Patty. *Tulingan* was delivered by Lulu Malvar's driver and *tinapang tilapia* from Bataan by Pepe Abueva (*Ubos* na, Pepe).

The Inner Dance healers came. Everyone had their eyes closed and were dancing their cosmic dance in our sunken *sala* when the scholarly, very political 87-year-old Letty Constantino arrived. *Lagot*! I thought. But Letty gamely closed her eyes and danced with her hands. The women's libber, Anna Sarabia, slipped in and looked bewildered amid the wave of dancing healers, Bong, Troy, Justin, Lizette, Joy, Chato, Lyvia, Georgina. I had another relapse.

Long-lost friends

One thing about friends believing you've been snatched from the jaws of death, people you've not seen in a long, long time pop up. Like Bhen Cervantes, Rose Scott, Nic Tiongson and my favorite restaurateur, Jude, Amy and Angel Ylagan. From my own teenage years in Malate, Toto and Ellen Ocampo and Freddie Arrastia, all beginning to dodder like me. Close friends hug you and feed you—like Mariel Francisco, Cora Alvina, Peng Arriola, Edna Manlapaz, Ann Wizer and Steve de Leon. Julie Lluch, Norma Liongoren, Butch Santos and Sylvia Mayuga raved about Bob Feleo's Basi Revolt exhibit. Vergel Santos sketched everybody around the table. Maria Abulencia had just launched her incredible biography "Agape," and appeared with Rinna Soriano, Agnes Prieto and her Brigadier General friend who liked my *champorado* and *tuyo*. I almost felt guilty I didn't die.

If this sounds like a shameless "Among Those Present" copy of Maurice Arcache, it is, *palanggas*. I promise never to do it again. Is it a roll call? Yes! All those who did not come are absolved. At least it frees me from having to visit you too when you're sick, even if I love you.

New Pitoy Moreno scholars

IMELDA COJUANGCO, founding chair of the JMoreno Scholarship Foundation, hands over the scholarship support to students of the College of Fine Arts and College of Medicine and Agriculture of the University of the Philippines. The recent handover was held at the penthouse of architect Gerry Contreras. UP alumni and supporters were present to express their full support to the 20-year scholarship program.

JIMMY Laya and lawyer Boy Feria

EIMEE Cragun and Pitoy Moreno with College of Medicine scholars. This year's scholars are Anthony Cu, Zaida Aminulla, Paul Adrian Pinlac, Paolo Victor Medina, Jazel Manarang, Jadz Jeuz Lee and Ramon Guinto.

IMELDA Cojuangco, Pitoy Moreno and UP College of Agriculture representative

MELDY Cojuangco, Gerry Contreras

DORIS Ho, Cojuangco, Fe Rodriguez

CELIA Laurel and Cocoy Laurel

FR. MAC Reyes, Elena Fernando, Cheloy Dans, Mely Moreno; (seated) Celia Laurel, Sonia Olivares, Alice Sandejas

ROSITA Lesaca, Mabel Abaño, Helen Ong, Sandie Poblador

FORTUNE Ledesma, Mayen Carmona, Mercy Tuazon, Carol Garcia

JESSE Panelo, Chel Katigbak, Marui Yulo, Claus Freund

LOUIE Locsin, Dean Tina Colayco, Yaying Dragon; (seated) Ingrid Santamaria, Crispy Laurel, Emily Lopez

PITOY Moreno, Cocoy Laurel, Contreras, Cragun, Johnny Valdes

The good life in one convenient package

By Linda B. Bolido

YOU HAVE WORKED HARD TO afford the good things in life, but why should enjoying the fruits of your labor be as difficult and inconvenient as achieving them?

Well, eight creative minds feel that enjoying the rewards of all your hard work should not be as hard as the struggle to get them. Ramon Ricardo V. Gutierrez, Pamela P. Davila-Pascual, Lally D. de Castro, Juan Carlos del Rosario, Dakila Maniquis, Lito Fernandez, Daniel Feliciano and Cyrus Cruz have come up with Trei, or Total Recreational Experience Inc.

TREI opens doors to top restos.

Now, instead of having so many cards as proof of your membership in country clubs and hotel executive programs, as well as discount and frequent-shopper privileges in food and commercial establishments, you can just flash one card to get those advantages and priority services to boot.

Trei not only aims to put the "good life" in one convenient package but also to make it cost much less than you would otherwise spend if you were to get each feature separately.

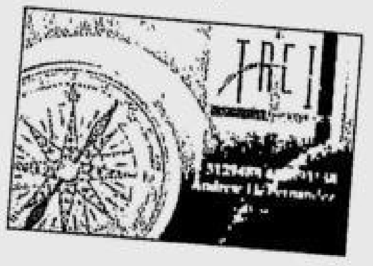
Instead of having access to single establishments, cardholders will enjoy "membership privileges in five-star hotels and resorts everywhere where Trei has trade partners," Davila-Pascual says.

The menu of benefits ranges from simple freebies to being assured of a table in partner restaurants and having first crack at new products and services.

Premium brands

Special activities will also be scheduled to maximize the benefits customers can derive from being a cardholder. A special launch shopping event before the end of the year, for instance, will entitle new members to significant discounts on premium brands.

With Trei, enjoying the fruits of your hard work becomes easier and less expensive



TRAVEL to any part of the country from Batanes to Mindanao.

Ken Navarro reveals that Trei has so far signed up partnerships with 50 establishments ranging from resorts to stores. By the end of the year he expects that number to double.

Further making life easy for Trei Lifestyle Membership Card holders is the concierge service that is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. TLCs, or Trei Lifestyle Counselors, provide personalized service via a dedicated hotline.

Gutierrez says they are trying to build up a strong concierge service as the backbone of the package.

As with similar services in deluxe hotels, TLCs aim to make life easy for you by finding whatever product or service you need, and resolving small or major inconveniences.

You need tickets to a sold-out performance, fly somewhere at an instant's notice, or buy a limited-edition product as a gift to a special someone? There is no need to let your fingers do the walking, send out e-mail to everyone, or spend hours scouring eBay for the right stuff.

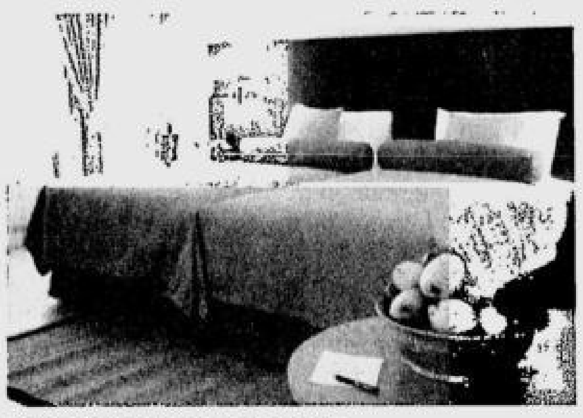
Let Trei's concierge service take the problem off your hands and just sit back and wait. You save yourself time and money and will not have to stress yourself.

RAMON Ricardo V. Gutierrez is one of the brains behind Trei.

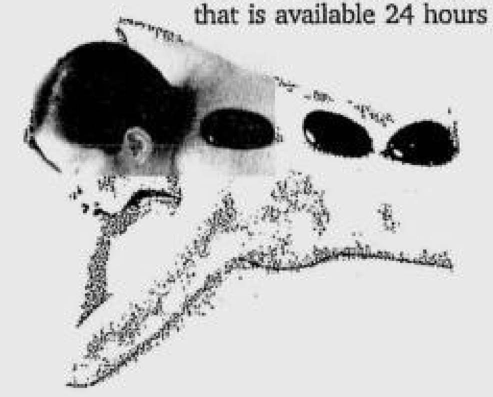
Trei (www.mytrei.com, 438TREI, 6318310, 6320008) offers three kinds of memberships. The 25-year Individual membership fee is P100,000 with monthly dues of P1,000, of which 50 percent may be used in certain partner establishments.

Family membership, also valid for 25 years, costs P180,000, with P1,800 monthly dues, of which 50 percent may be used in partner establishments. A family consists of one principal member, his/her spouse and two dependents below 21 years old.

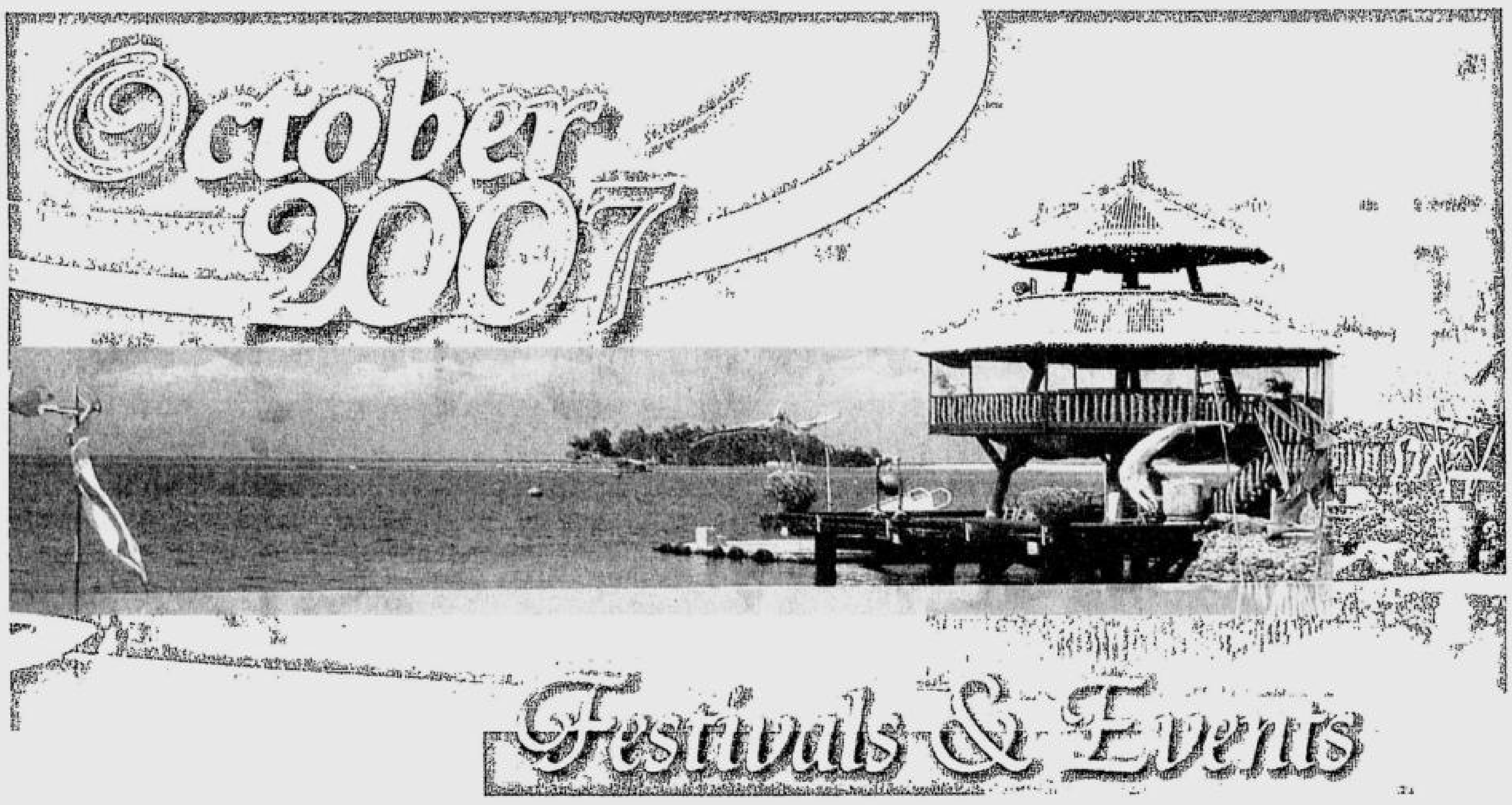
A corporation can acquire membership for P270,000 and monthly dues of P3,000, of which 50 percent can be used in certain partner establishments. It will have to nominate three people to use the membership privileges. The nominees may be changed any time but for a fee of P5,000 per name.



GET priority in hotel bookings.



ENJOY special rates in wellness centers.



HOLY MONTH OF RAMADHAN
Regionwide-Region 12; October –November
Contact: (064) 4211110

EID'L FITR
Regionwide-Region 12; October 12-13
Contact: (064) 4211110

FIESTANG KULIAT
Angeles City; Whole month of October
Contact: (045) 3220507

PISTA NG GUBAT
Pandan & Libertad, Antique, Nabas, Aklan, Buruanga, Aklan, Malay, Aklan (Northwest Panay Peninsula; October 1
Contact (036) 2789503

DILAAB FESTIVAL
Siquijor, Siquijor, Ist of October
Contact: (035) 3442015

SENIOR CITIZENS WEEK
Baguio City; October 1-7
Contact (074) 4448129

FIESTA HERMOSA
Zamboanga City; October 1-12
Contact: (062) 9923007

PAGODA (FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI)
Cardona, Rizal, October 4
Contact: (02) 6520018

SINANGGIYAW FESTIVAL
Dumanjug, Cebu; 4th October
Contact. (032) 4719400

LA TORRE
Cardona, Rizal; October 6
Contact: (02) 652 0018

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY (3rd FIESTA OF DIPOLOG)
Dipolog, October 7
Contact: (062) 2122485

LUBI-LUBI FESTIVAL
Gian, Sarangani Province; October 8
Contact: (083) 5082495

MT. APO OCTOTREK
Kidapawan City, Magpet, Makilala; October 8
Contact: (064) 2783361

PROVINCIAL EXPO
Kidapawan City, October 8-14
Contact: (064) 2881799

KAALDAWAN IRAYA
Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro; October 12
Contact. (043) 2873051

INUG-OG FESTIVAL
Oroquieta City, October 14
Contact. (088) 5311213

KAPAKYANAN FESTIVAL
Victoria, Oriental Mindoro, October 14-15
Contact: (043) 4500133

5TH NATIONAL WHITE WATER RAFTING ADVENTURE
Cagayan de Oro October 14-16
Contact: (088) 8571270

KASANGGAYAHAN FESTIVAL
Sorsogon; October 15-25
Contact. (056) 211-1398

SAGINGAN FESTIVAL
Tubod, Lanao del Norte; October 16-17
Contact. (063) 3415407

CIMARRONES FESTIVAL
Pili, Camarines Sur, October 16-26
Contact: (054) 4777707

ANA KALANG FESTIVAL
Nagcarlan, Laguna; October 18-22
Contact: (049) 8080464

MASSKARA FESTIVAL & BACOLOD CHARTER DAY CELEBRATION
Bacolod City, Sunday nearest October 19
Contact. (034) 4346751

LEYTE GULF LANDING ANNIVERSARY
Dulag/Palo, Leyte. October 20
Contact: (053) 3212063, 3214927

CATANDUNGAN FESTIVAL
Virac, Catanduanes; October 22-24
Contact: (052) 811-2549

PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY
Baguio City, October 24
Contact: (074) 4422635

LA NAVAL FESTIVAL
Angeles City; 2nd Sunday of October
Contact: (045) 3220507

LANZONES FESTIVAL
Camiguin, 3rd week of October
Contact: (088) 3871097

LISAGAN FESTIVAL
Agusan del Norte; 3rd week of October
Contact: (085) 3412185;

PAMUGU-AN FESTIVAL
Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro; 3rd week of October
Contact: 09272035118

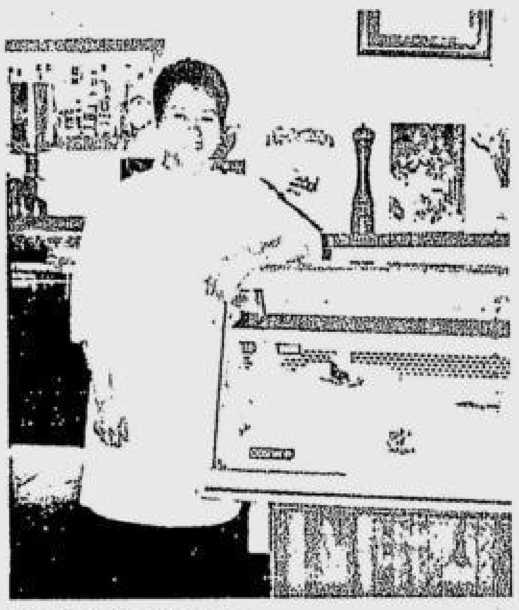
APO FIESTA
Angeles City; Last Friday of October
Contact: (045) 3220507

TIGTIGAN & TERAKAN KENG DALAN
Balibago, Angeles City; Last Friday & Saturday of October
Contact: (045) 3220507

CRY OF JELICUON FESTIVAL
New Lucena, Iloilo, Last week of October
Contact: (033) 5262013; 5262160

Ace
JOSEPH H. DURANO
Secretary
Department of Tourism

PHILIPPINES
www.wowphilippines.com.ph
www.experiencephilippines.ph
www.wowpinoy.net
7,107 islands beyond the usual



CHEF Jessie Sincioco

Sweet treat from a sweet 16

WOULD YOU BELIEVE LE SOUFFLÉ IS 16 years old?

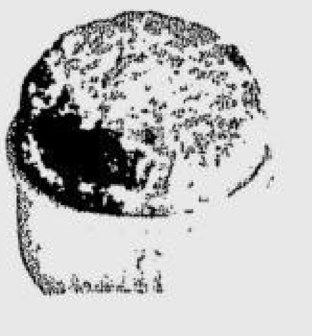
As a gesture of gratitude to all its loyal patrons and supportive friends, the restaurant is giving a 50-percent discount on all purchases the whole day of Oct. 4.

Starting with the first Le Soufflé in Greenbelt that served diners for nine years before closing down, the restaurant is now operating at three locations. Le Soufflé at the Top of the Citi (34th floor of Citibank Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City) opened in 1996. Le Soufflé at The Fort (Unit B, The Fort, Bonifacio Global City) started operations in 1998. Le Soufflé Bistro, which operated in Ortigas for five years, moved to Rockwell (Ground Level Amorsolo Square, Rockwell Center) two-and-a-half years ago.

To celebrate 16 years of successful, blissful, fruitful existence, Le Soufflé is offering a vast selection of dishes, from those served since it opened in 1991 to items included on the new menu that will be introduced.

For reservations, call 8906543, 8907630, 4502993 or 4502996.

SEAFOOD Salad



FAMOUS soufflé

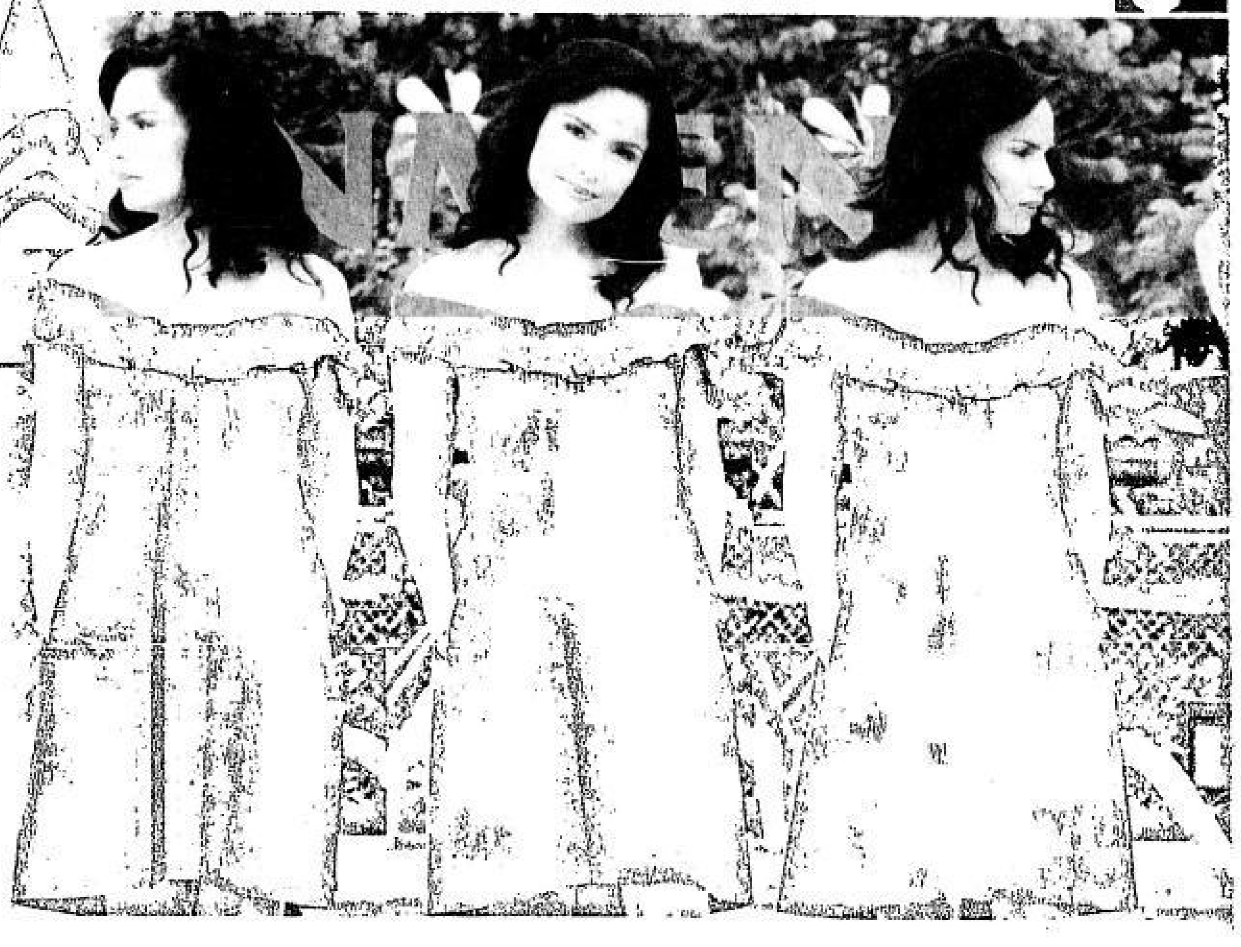
ENTERT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart)
or email us at entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

'I've been humbled, but I'm okay now'

By Frances Gumapac



TAKE FIVE

CLOTHES BY KOLORETE
MAKEUP BY GERRY CABUSO
LOCATION: BURNTMILK CAFE, BONIFACIO HTS.
PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

SNOOKY SERNA SITS DOWN with INQUIRER Entertainment and tells the story of her life today, her hardships and how she got through them with a newfound self-awareness and faith.

How have you been?

I've had so many problems in the past two years. I went through a civil annulment with my first husband Richard Cepeda, then I had a nervous breakdown. I also remarried and became a weekend parent.

Tapos I had health problems, growths in my colon. Mercifully, it turned out they were benign. But you can imagine what I went through while waiting for the test results—nerve-wracking is an understatement.

My career was at a standstill. I was fired from "Captain Barbell." I was having financial troubles. I tried to get into business... then into networking. Much to my dismay *hindi ko pala* forte. I also tried call centers, *pero* when they learned I was not a college graduate ... very strict *sila*.

Then I had an ectopic pregnancy. We were hoping for a boy. I put myself at risk, *kasi* I wanted to give the baby a chance.

So *ayan*... I was humbled, and I had to learn to be practical. *'Yung* "lifestyles of the rich and famous," I had to scale it down. It was a bit of a sacrifice, *kasi* I was used to spoiling myself. I'm not proud to say that.

As much as show biz can be very good to us, at the same time it can also be an ungrateful business. *Parang gulong ng palad lang 'yan, eh.* Sometimes you're up, sometimes you're down. But I thank God that it all taught me to be a better, stronger person.

In the past, I was such a clingy person, such a baby, *para bang* I would act stupid so that people would take care of me, rather than taking responsibility for myself. *Ngayon*, I've no choice but to be responsible.

What's your current situation?

I'm okay. I'm very happy and very comfortable with who I am and where I am now. I'd be a hypocrite if I said I wasn't aspiring to live in a more comfortable house and have my own car. I want to have a better life for my children.

Then again, this is not bad, I can't complain. God has been good to me, in spite of my rebelliousness, after being so stubborn.

I became a Born Again [Christian] nine months ago, I belong to the Victory Christian Fellowship. Now I realize who my real friends are. I have no regrets. I have also hurt people and I'm really sorry about that. But the people who left me when I was down, they don't matter anyway. I hope I don't sound bitter.

[At one point] I was not myself. Jersil Demeterio, my psychiatrist, and Zenaida Uy, a heart specialist—good friends of mine—were my confidants during those trying times.

I asked the doctor if I was turning schizophrenic. *Sabi n'ya*, "Snook, don't worry. You have chemical imbalance. It's [just] like having stomach problem [or] a heart disease."

I was diagnosed as having dysthymic mood disorder. *Hindi s'ya* manic-depression but I also had to take Prozac and Rivotril for anxiety and panic attacks. *At saka meron akong* obsessive-compulsive quotient, part of the imbalance.

I don't hide this because, if I can help someone who is stigmatized by what she feels, or feels ridiculed or isolated ... it doesn't mean that when you're eccentric, dysfunctional *ka na*, and you cannot blend in, or there's something terribly wrong with you. *Para mawala rin 'yung* stigma that when you go to a psychiatrist, you're cuckoo, *at takot na ang mga tao na lumapit dahil may lamat ka, may tama.*

So how's work these days?

I'm doing an indie film directed by Crisaldo Pablo. The title is "SEB: Mahal ba kita?"—*apat na istorya tungkol sa mga nangyayari sa* chat rooms.

Nag-Friendster *nga ako*; my daughter showed me. *Nagulat ako... ang dami-dami palang pwedeng makipagkilala sa iyo. Ang* Friendster name *ko*, Incandescent Angel.

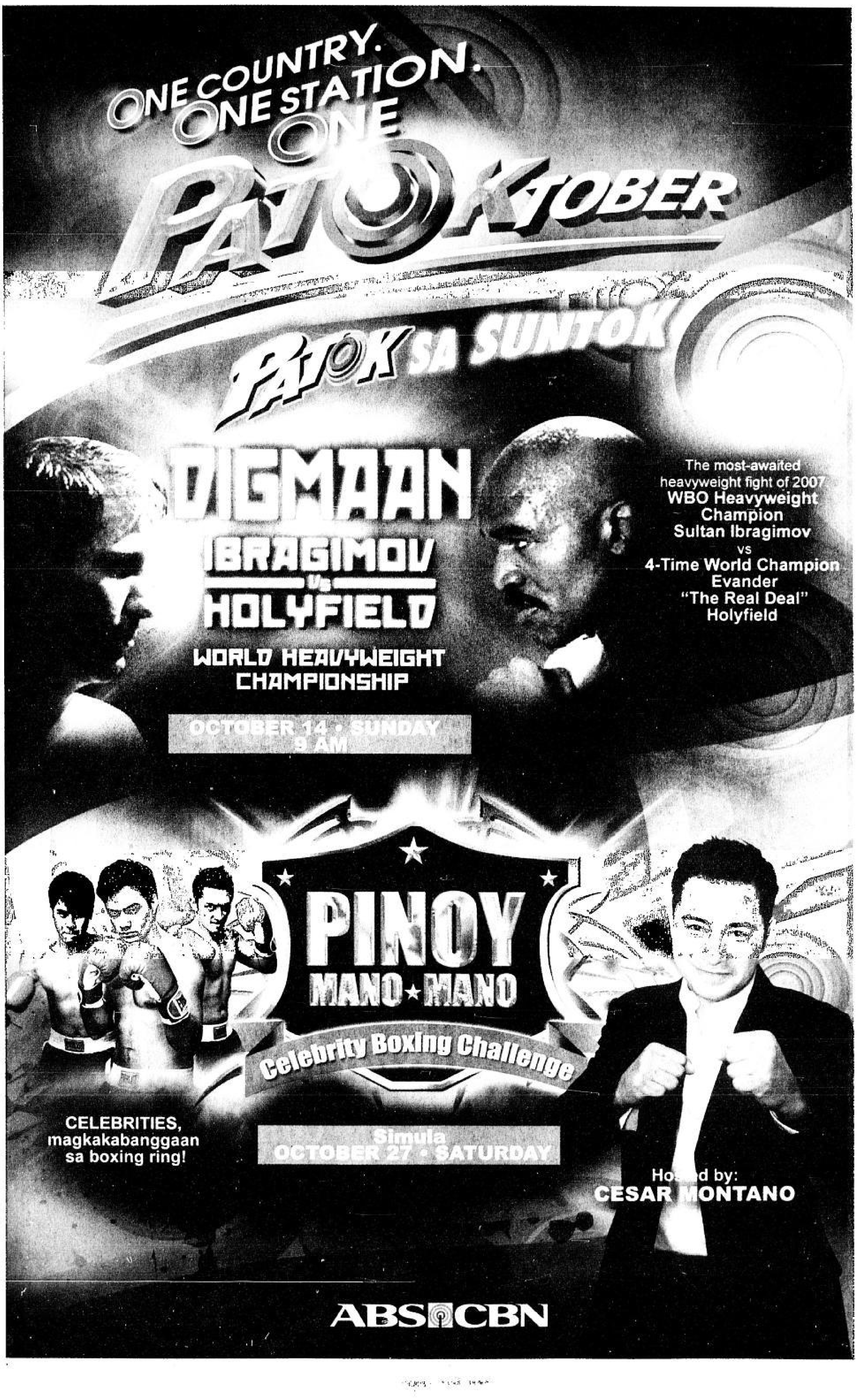
How are the kids?

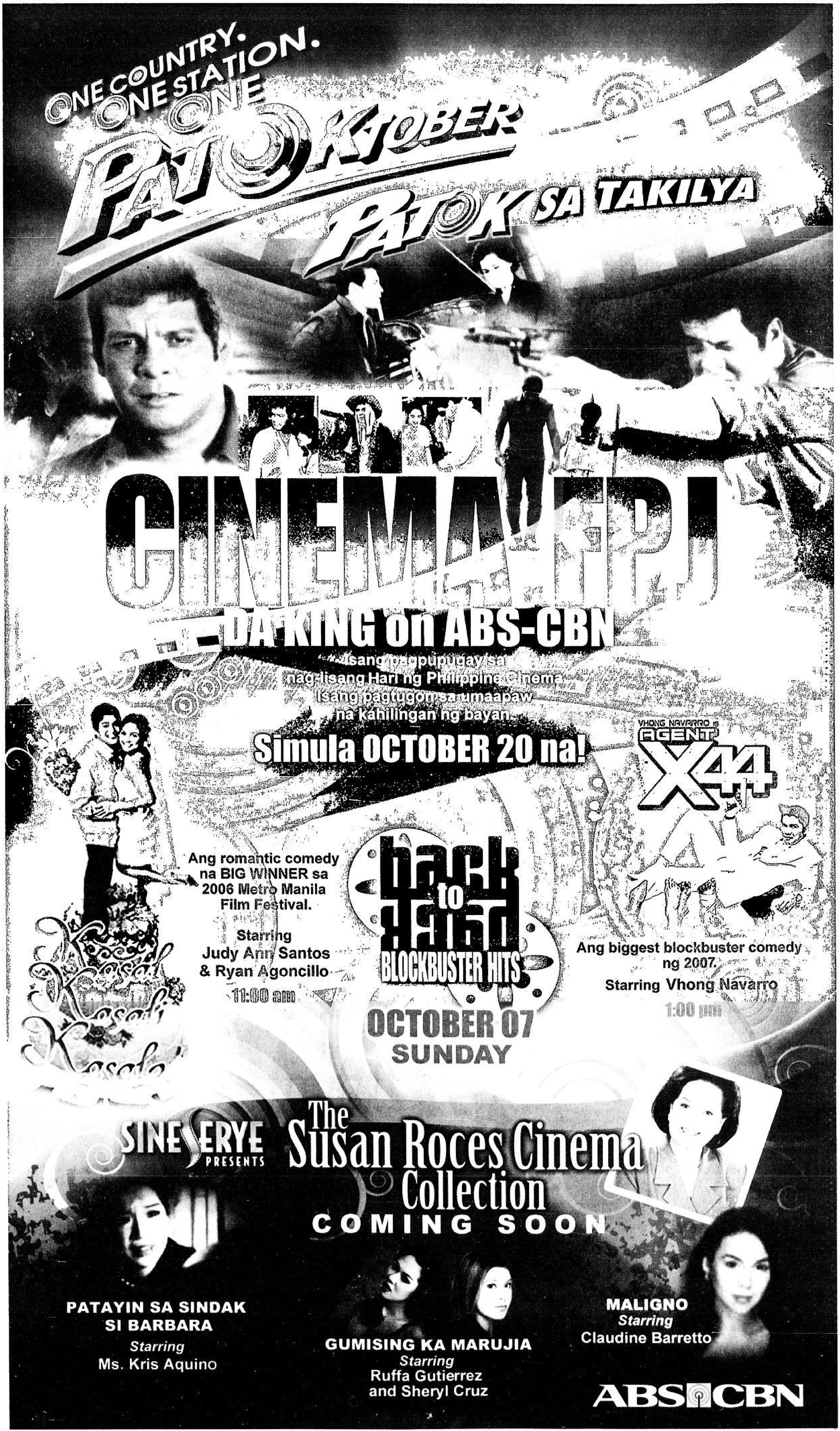
They're doing very well. They're very well-balanced children. *Parang walang nangyari sa amin ng* daddy *nila. Matatawa ka nga*, if you ask my daughters *kung gusto nilang magkabalikan kami, pareho nilang sasabihin, "Huwag na."* So now, he's the weekend parent.

How is your relationship with Ricardo Cepeda?

Very cordial. Formal but cordial, and friendly. *Mabait siyang tao. Wala akong masasabi sa kanya* as a father. He takes care of [the kids']

I'VE BEEN/ G4


ONE COUNTRY. ONE STATION. ONE
PATOKTOBER
PATOK SA SUNTOK
DIGMAAN
IBRAGIMOV vs HOLYFIELD
WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
OCTOBER 14 • SUNDAY 9 AM
The most-awaited heavyweight fight of 2007
WBO Heavyweight Champion Sultan Ibragimov
vs
4-Time World Champion Evander "The Real Deal" Holyfield
PINOY MANO★MANO
Celebrity Boxing Challenge
CELEBRITIES, magkakabanggaan sa boxing ring!
Simula OCTOBER 27 • SATURDAY
Hosted by: CESAR MONTANO
ABS-CBN



ONE COUNTRY. ONE STATION. ONE

PATOKTOBER

PATOK SA TAKILYA

CINEMA FPJ

DA KING on ABS-CBN

Isang pagpupugay sa
nag-iisang Hari ng Philippine Cinema
Isang pagtugon sa umaapaw
na kahilingan ng bayan.

Simula OCTOBER 20 na!

Ang romantic comedy
na BIG WINNER sa
2006 Metro Manila
Film Festival.

Starring
Judy Ann Santos
& Ryan Agoncillo

11:00 am

Kasal Kasali Kasalo

back to back BLOCKBUSTER HITS

OCTOBER 07
SUNDAY

VHONG NAVARRO is AGENT X44

Ang biggest blockbuster comedy
ng 2007.
Starring Vhong Navarro

1:00 pm

SINESERYE PRESENTS

The Susan Roces Cinema Collection

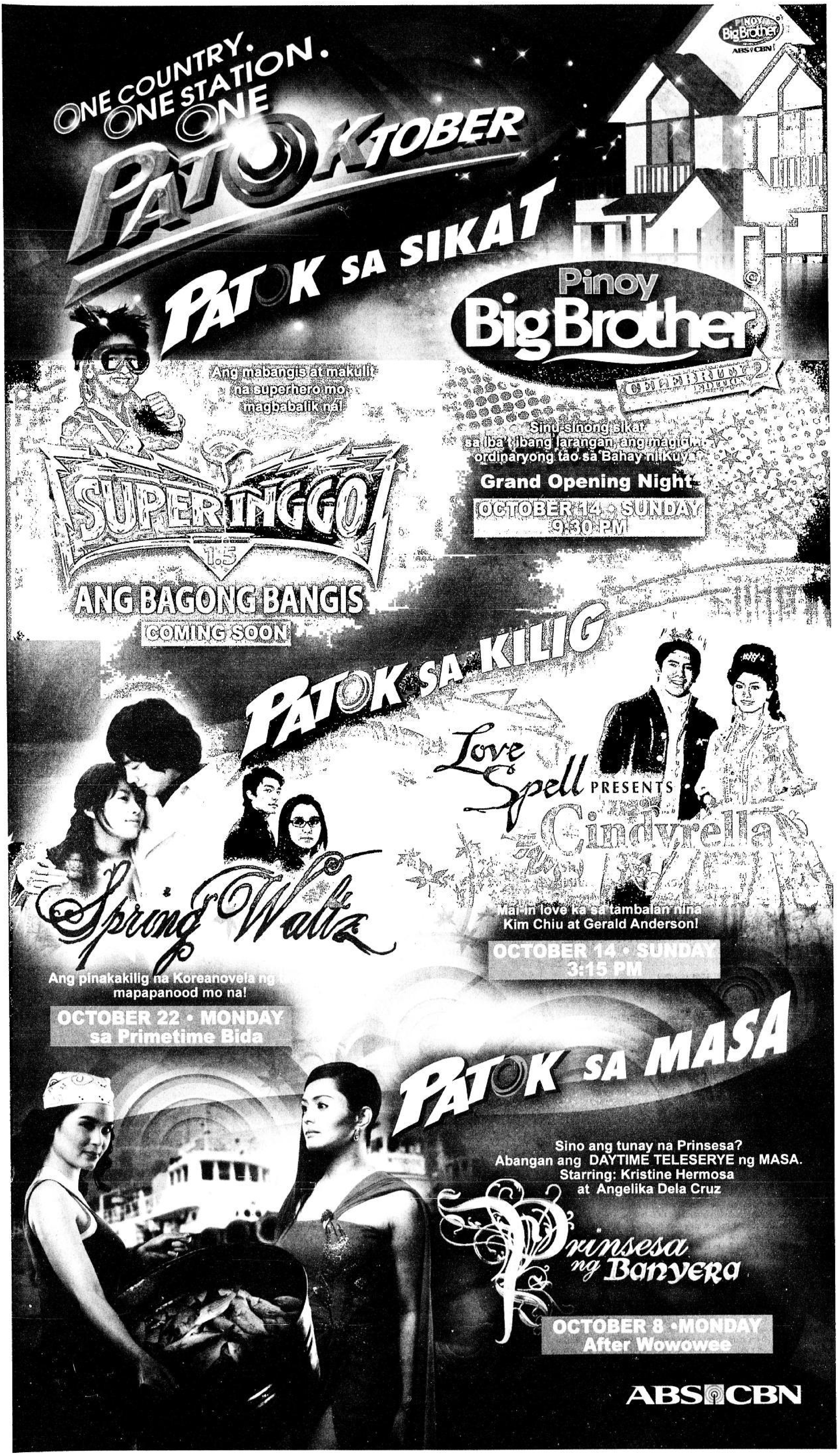
COMING SOON

PATAYIN SA SINDAK SI BARBARA
Starring
Ms. Kris Aquino

GUMISING KA MARUJIA
Starring
Ruffa Gutierrez
and Sheryl Cruz

MALIGNO
Starring
Claudine Barretto

ABS-CBN



ONE COUNTRY.
ONE STATION.
ONE
PATOKTOBER

PATOK SA SIKAT

PINOY Big Brother
ABS-CBN

Pinoy Big Brother
CELEBRITY EDITION 2

Sinu-sinong sikat
sa iba't ibang larangan, ang magiging
ordinaryong tao sa Bahay ni Kuya?

Grand Opening Night
OCTOBER 14 • SUNDAY
9:30 PM

Ang mabangis at makulit
na superhero mo
magbabalik na!

SUPER INGGO 1.5
ANG BAGONG BANGIS
COMING SOON

PATOK SA KILIG

Love Spell PRESENTS
Cindyrella

Mai-in love ka sa tambalan nina
Kim Chiu at Gerald Anderson!

OCTOBER 14 • SUNDAY
3:15 PM

Spring Waltz

Ang pinakakilig na Koreanovela ng
mapapanood mo na!

OCTOBER 22 • MONDAY
sa Primetime Bida

PATOK SA MASA

Sino ang tunay na Prinsesa?
Abangan ang DAYTIME TELESERYE ng MASA.
Starring: Kristine Hermosa
at Angelika Dela Cruz

Prinsesa ng Banyera

OCTOBER 8 • MONDAY
After Wowowee

ABS-CBN

SARAH JESSICA Parker, left, and Kim Cattrall hug during the filming of a scene in "Sex and the City: The Movie" in New York early this week. REUTERS

Top stars, new movies out to surprise viewers

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE POPULARITY OF SEquels suggests that viewers love familiar characters and situations. But, if you aren't lucky enough to have a popular film franchise to profitably mine for one sequel after another, what do you do? You do your best to appeal to viewers' other soft spot: their thirst for the different and the unusual.

That's why filmmakers have been trotting out a wide range of "surprising" movies this year, the better to nudge bored viewers into exclaiming, "Hey, *this* I got to see!" Some attention-calling examples:

For years now, movie westerns have been non-starters in the film race. But **Brad Pitt** has given the ignored film type a new lease on life with the critical success of his latest starrer, "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford," for which Pitt won Best Actor honors at the recent Venice film fest.

War movies are also being filmed again, after some years of being similarly snubbed by filmmakers and viewers. **Clint Eastwood** has set the pace with his "two-fer" movies about the Battle of Iwo Jima, as seen from American *and* Japanese perspectives.

In both the new westerns and war dramas, the film types have undergone radical changes.

In the old days, war and "cowboy" films dramatized black-and-white situations in breast-beating "heroic" fashion.

These days, westerns and war movies are more psychological in approach, challenging viewers to navigate a dark landscape in which the bad guys look and act like heroes, and vice-versa.

In the area of films for women, the sex quotient has been revved up for today's "experienced" female viewers. Pacing the field in this regard is the film version of "Sex in the City," whose female protagonists turn traditional niceties upside-down—and-inside-out by sometimes treating their many lovers as male sex objects.

For his part, **George Clooney** steps away from his debonair screen persona to play a tormented "fixer" who solves other people's problems — but can't get a handle on his own messed-up, contradictory existence.

Clooney plays the "dark" title character in **"Michael Clayton,"** and it's hoped this will excite viewers enough for them to watch the film.

For Beatles fans, director **Julie Taymor** ("The Lion King," "Frida") has another kind of surprise in store: She's adapting more than 30 of the Fab Four's songs for a new musical film, "Across the Universe," a love story set in the '60s.

Other cinematic surprises are pulled by **Johnny Depp** and **Helena Bonham Carter**, who go musical as well in "Sweeney Todd," **Stephen Soudheim**'s tale about a murderous barber. **Tom Hanks** and **Julia Roberts** lend their unbeatable star power to "Charlie Wilson's War." **Jerry Seinfeld** makes a comeback as the stellar voice in the animated comedy, "Bee Movie."

Most surprising of all, **Angelina Jolie** and **Anthony Hopkins** top-bill "Beowulf"—without physically acting in the film! The revolutionary animated film uses "performance capture" to present viewers with accurate *virtual* representations of those famous stars.

Is this a sign of things to come for the movie industry and its top superstars? With "performance capture," can stars be paid to "lend" their faces, bodies and voices to a production without doing much of the acting work involved?

If so, will movies like "Beowulf" herald a new film age in which superstars can "license" their personas off to producers and still have enough time on their hands to smell the roses?

Most important question of all: Will viewers accept this new "virtual" performance process—or reject it as being too cold, hollow and surreal to be countenanced? The answer to that could be the biggest surprise of all.

FROM left: "Sex and the City" lead actresses Cynthia Nixon, Sarah Jessica Parker and Kristin Davis in another scene from their hit series' movie version. REUTERS

Making up in the name of politics

MARTIN Nievera sounds irked.

RUSHES SUNDAY

K.D. Lang and Elton John kiss during a benefit show in New York on Tuesday. REUTERS

THIS SHOW BIZ COUPLE made a lot of noise when they broke up last year. Then, all too suddenly, they reconciled. Turned out, it wasn't really a happy ending. The reunion was only for show because the guy was running for public office.

Duets, duels

Seems it's not all fun and good times for the remaining contestants on GMA 7's reality show "Celebrity Duets." Before limits were imposed, one contestant had spent over P70,000 on text votes, said a mole.

An insider revealed that paramedics and an ambulance were on standby the night designer **Frederick Peralta** got the boot. "We were afraid he would faint," the insider said.

Two Ryans on Two

Rumor: **Ryan Cayabyab** and **Ryan Agoncillo**—judge and host of the first season of "Philippine Idol" on ABC 5 — are being wooed to join ABS-CBN 2's "Pinoy Dream Academy" instead of the new "Idol" on GMA 7.

Juday goes indie

In local show biz, you can't get more commercial than **Judy Ann Santos.** But Juday is reportedly set to headline an independent film to be shot in Palawan. What made her cross over? The digital movie marks the directorial debut of a "good pal," said our source.

Anatomy of a breakup

The love team of this good-looking couple was considered a publicist's dream-come-true. They had chemistry on and off the set. The matinee idol's family was not so keen on the romance, however. "They couldn't afford to lose their breadwinner," our spy said. A scheming relative released "compromising" photos of the two, causing a split-up.

Historic week

Hollywood highlights during the week of Sept. 30-Oct. 6:

KC CONCEPCION
ROMY HOMILLADA

1927: The era of talking pictures arrived with the opening of "The Jazz Singer," starring **Al Jolson.**

1955: Actor **James Dean** was killed in a car crash. He was 24.

1959: "Mack the Knife" by **Bobby Darin** hit No. 1 on the pop charts.

1962: **Johnny Carson** took over as regular host of NBC's "Tonight" show, succeeding **Jack Paar.**

1970: Singer **Janis Joplin** was found dead of a heroin overdose in a Hollywood hotel. She was 27.

1985: Actor **Rock Hudson** died in his Beverly Hills home after battling AIDS. He was 59.

1992: Singer **Sinead O'Connor** ripped up a picture of the pope during an appearance on "Saturday Night Live."

2003: Actress **Halle Berry** and musician **Eric Benet** announced they were separating after three years.

2005: The divorce between **Brad Pitt** and **Jennifer Aniston** was finalized.

About the Taj...

MUMBAI, India — Bollywood actress and former Miss World **Aishwarya Rai** will star in a movie by **Ben Kingsley** on the making of the Taj Mahal, India's famous marble monument to love. The movie is likely to be filmed next year in the northern Indian city of Agra that is home to the Taj Mahal, The Times of India newspaper quoted Kingsley as saying in an interview. *AP*

***

Top of the tabloids

The top show biz stories in local tabloids this week. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

- **Rhian Ramos**, *lasing na lasing, nagwawala!*
- Rhian: Most maligned GMA artist. (Cause *kaya ito* or effect?)
- **Jean Garcia**, *napa-praning sa* "closeness" *nina* **Jennica Garcia** *at* **Mart Escudero.**
- Jennica *at* Mart, *pinayuhan ni* Jean *na mag*-condom?
- Isyu *na* condom, *iniyakan ni* Jennica.
- **Karel Marquez**, *buntis?*
- **Shaina Magdayao**, *bantay-sarado kay* **Vina Morales**! *Baka raw mabuntis tulad ni* **Camille Prats**!
- *"Hindi ako binugbog!"* — Phoemela Baranda.
- **Diana Zubiri** *hinihintay si* Binoe? (*Maging* single *uli? 'Tagal 'yan.*)
- **Martin Jickain**, *"tsinugi" ang* flat TV *nila ni* **Aiko Melendez.**
- Martin, *magso*-sorry *kay* Aiko.
- *Tanggapin kaya ni* Aiko *ang nagsisising asawa*? (Maybe if he brings flowers and a new flat TV.)
- **Roxanne Guinoo**, *ka*-level *na ni* **Claudine Barretto**? (Please qualify.)
- **Rafael Rosell**, *kalebel na sina* **John Lloyd Cruz** *at* **Sam Milby**! (*Ay lalo na 'to.* Please qualify.)
- **Richard Gutierrez,** *si* **Rhian Ramos** *ang ipinalit kay* **Georgina Wilson**?!
- *Pakikipaghalikan ni* **Isabel Oli** *kay* **Marvin Agustin**, *okey lang kay* Paolo Contis.
- Isabel, type *sulutin ni* Marvin *kay* Paolo!

AISHWARYA Rai

- Marvin, *totoong nagka-relasyon sa aktres na lumipat ng istasyon?!*
- Marvin, *ayaw nang pag-usapan si* Angel Locsin. (*Kasi, 'di na niya kapuso.*)
- Career *ni* Angel *sa* Dos, *delikado dahil kay* **KC Concepcion.**
- KC, *itatambal kay* Sam Milby?!
- KC, Sharon forgive **Billy Crawford.**
- Bagong GF *ni* **John Estrada,** OK *sa mga anak ni* Janice!
- *"Si* **Diet** *pa rin ang gusto ko!"* — **Kristine Hermosa**
- **Sandara Park** *artista na sa* Korea! (Surprised?)
- **Pops Fernandez**, *ginamit lang ni* Piolo?
- Piolo, *ayaw nang pag-usapan ang nakaraan nila ni* Pops. (*Kami rin.* Good call.)
- Martin *napilitan lang magpakasal kay* Pops.
- Martin, *nairita sa mga kinuwento ni* Pops!
- Say *ni* Martin *kay* Pops: "She's a woman scorned!" (Ouch.)
- *Bakit naghintay ng siyam na taon si* Pops *bago siya nagsalita tungkol sa paghihiwalay nila ni* Martin? (Silver anniversary concert?)
- Pops, *kasal muna bago pabuntis kay* Jomari!
- Jomari *ayaw pakasalan si* Pops! (Ergo...)
- Pops still loves Martin, but "on another level."
- Ex *at* present *ni* Jomari, *problemado.* (*Oo nga, ano?*)
- **Candy Pangilinan**, *nag*-file *ng* annulment.
- *Anak ni* **Jaclyn Jose**, *walang sustento kay* **Mark Gil.**
- Ai Ai *ayaw nang magka-anak dahil "sarado" na.*
- **Jennylyn** *lalong malalaos kapag ipinilit kay* **Patrick.**
- *Sa hiwalayan ang tuloy nina* Jennylyn *at* Patrick.
- Jay Manalo *buking na, humihirit pa! Wala raw* gay benefactor ...really?
- **Jinkee Pacquiao**, *naniniwalang may "nangyari" kina* Manny *at* **Ara Mina.**
- Ara, *hinarang ni Jinkee; pati nga lalaking malapit kay* Manny *eh, pinagseselosan, si* Ara *pa kaya?*
- Goodbye showbiz? Gretchen *sa* Europe *na titira.*
- Ruffa, *hindi paboritong anak ni* **Annabelle.**
- **Shyr Valdez**, *tinalo sina* Jaclyn Jose *at* **Jackielou Blanco** *para sa* Martin *at* **Gracia Burnham** docu.
- Acting *ni* **Angelica Panganiban**, *insulto kina* Juday *at* Gina Pareño!
- Angelica, *tsugi na sa* 'Ysabella'!
- **Alfred Vargas**, bothered by sex video.
- **Mark Anthony Fernandez** *at* **Ana Capri** *nahuling naglalambingan sa* Lumban, Laguna. (*Ay.*)
- *Ito ang* true: Parents *ni* **Jake Cuenca**, *boto kay* **Roxanne Guinoo.**
- **Prince Stefan**, *basted kay* Lovi Poe.
- **Ryan Agoncillo**, *ipit sa Dos at Siyete.*
- **Jericho Rosales** falls asleep while driving, nearly figures in car accident.

'I've been humbled, but I'm okay now'

From page G1

schooling, he shops for them. Sometimes I even ask for his advice. But I'm always careful not to cross the line, *kasi iba na ngayon ang estado namin*. But the caring will always be there. Thirteen years is 13 years. I can honestly say I still care about him. And if God wills us to be together again, He will show us the way.

How's your mom (former actress Mila Ocampo)?

She's doing okay. She was diagnosed with emphysema but not in the advanced stage. She's getting stronger now, at 66, because... thank God for well-meaning friends who help me provide for her medicines. Although I'm [currently working as] an account executive in a company, *hindi 'yun* stable job. I'm thankful for occasional TV guestings.

You've sought the help of friends in the Senate, too. How did that go?

Nagpapatulong nga ako kay Sen. Lito Lapid and Sen. Pia Cayetano. Pia is a former classmate and a very good friend. *Dalawa ang nilapitan ko, pero ang nakita lang ng ibang tao diyan, si* Lito Lapid.

Have your working habits improved?

I'm happy to say, *iba na ang* working habits *ko. Awa ng Diyos, maganda na rin ang* relationship *ko sa mga katrabaho ko*. They see that I come on time, they see my enthusiasm. *Iba talaga* when you do things from the heart. I've always had the passion, though. *Nalamon lang ako ng maling sistema at maling pananaw*.

You used to host "Travel and Trade" on IBC 13.

Alam mo, masaya ako doon. It was a happy eight months. If someone asked me to do another travel and trade show, I'd accept in a second. I love traveling.

Some people have made a big fuss over your taking the public transport.

You know what, *mag-a* ala Tyra Banks ako diyan: "So what?" I'm not embarrassed to take a tricycle, the MRT, the jeepney if I have to.

What advice can you give young ones in the biz?

Strike while the iron is hot. Take advantage of every opportunity, but not at the expense of other people or your soul. Instead of focusing on the *pagod*, focus on the blessings. Work is a blessing. Being able to pursue your passion is a blessing. And save. Save, save, save. Money is not all there is in life, but it is necessary.

Do you think your relationship with Nino Mendoza was jeopardized by your age difference?

First, I'm nine years older than Nino, not 12. The age difference did have something to do with it but... *maraming* other factors. We were in a relationship that, deep in our hearts, was not right. It was also affecting my relationship with my children, and my children are my top priority. The annulment is ongoing. There are things that are really not meant to be.

Would you still want to be in show biz 10 years from now?

Truthfully, yes.

SNOOKY Serna with daughter Sachi, 10. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

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CHARLIZE Theron glows during the after-screening party for "In the Valley of Elah" at the Venice Film Festival. With her are director Paul Haggis (center) and Spike Lee.
RUBEN V. NEPALES

Beauty as a 'burden'

Charlize Theron recalls a 'casting couch' experience

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—Some people will find it hard to sympathize with **Charlize Theron**'s "burden." To paraphrase that woman in a US TV commercial, don't hate her because she's beautiful.

But it must be exasperating for Charlize to field questions about her beauty—queries that come in many guises—for the thousandth time. Don't get us wrong. The actress, who plays a detective in **Paul Haggis**' "In the Valley of Elah," is an open, humorous interviewee.

But toward the end of a recent press con in LA, in response to one more such question from a reporter, she said, "There really is just no way around this, is there? Okay, imagine if I played that part looking like this as we sit here right now. Do you know what you'd be asking me? 'Why did you play a detective wearing high heels and looking beautiful?'"

Correction, Charlize—the world's most beautiful detective in black top and sweater. She explained, laughing, "I was working yesterday and I'm wearing a sweater because I'm so bruised." The scene was for "Hancock," which she is shooting with **Will Smith**. "We did some action stuff—Will hurt me," she quipped.

Back to "In the Valley of Elah," which we saw in Venice. Charlize arrived at the Palazzo del Cinema in an elaborate gown, then changed into a simpler one for the after-party. The audience rose and broke into a long ovation for Charlize and Paul. The film got its name from the place where David slew Goliath. There is a little guy versus big guy theme somewhere in the story of an Iraq war veteran who disappears after returning home to the US. There's solid work from **Tommy Lee Jones** and **Susan Sarandon** as the missing vet's parents and Charlize, who keeps getting better since she hauled all those awards for "Monster."

Charlize's other current film is "Battle in Seattle," the directing debut of her actor boyfriend, **Stuart Townsend**. The title refers to the protests and outbreaks of violence that marred the WTO (World Trade Organization) ministerial conference in 1999.

Talk about your transformation in this movie, from one of the most beautiful actresses into a regular working girl.

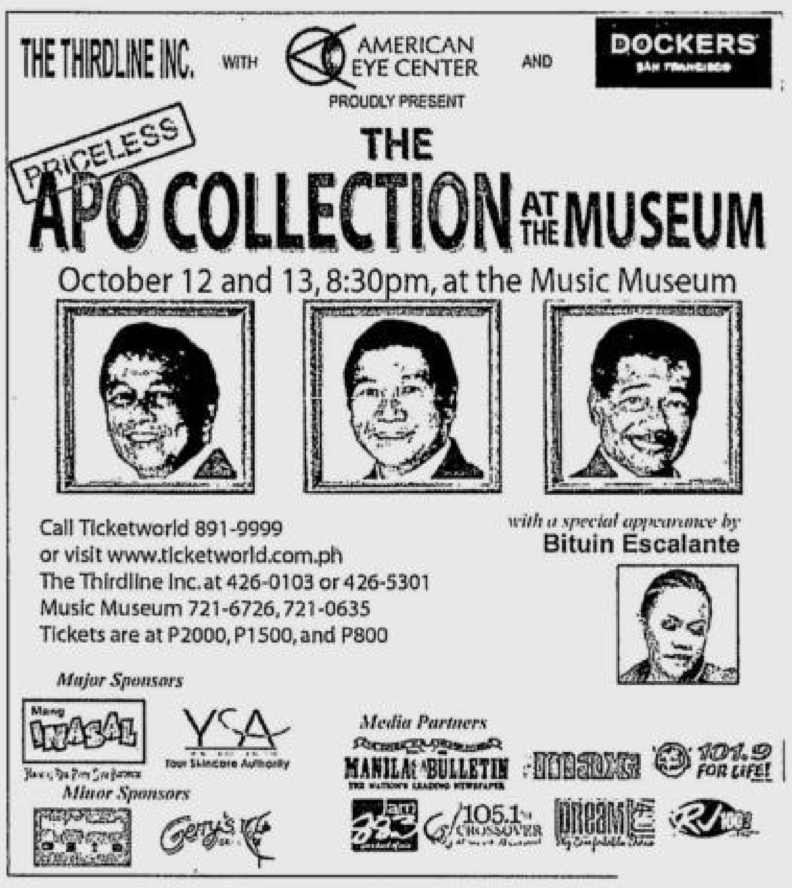
We have become so obsessed with celebrity in our society that we have forgotten what real people look like. That's how I look with no make-up and with my natural hair. That's what Stuart wakes up to every morning (laughter). He doesn't think it's ugly. So there's no transformation in this movie. It's stripping down to the bone and being a clear canvas.

Paul and I talked about my look for this movie for maybe 20 minutes only. That's my natural hair in the movie. I met a detective who told me, "You're working maybe 24 hours a day. You're on call. You don't know when you're going to have to run out. You don't have time to put on make-up. You have to wear this attire ('sensible' jacket, blouse, pants) because you may have to go to court or chase a guy down an alley."

Did you experience sexual harassment when you were trying to make it in Hollywood, like your character does as the only female detective in the precinct?

Good God, look at me. I would kick your ass. I mean, seriously (laughter). I've only had one situation in my life. It was my first audition, before I had an agent. I was auditioning for a featured extra kind of role. They sent me the information that the audition would

BEAUTY/ H2



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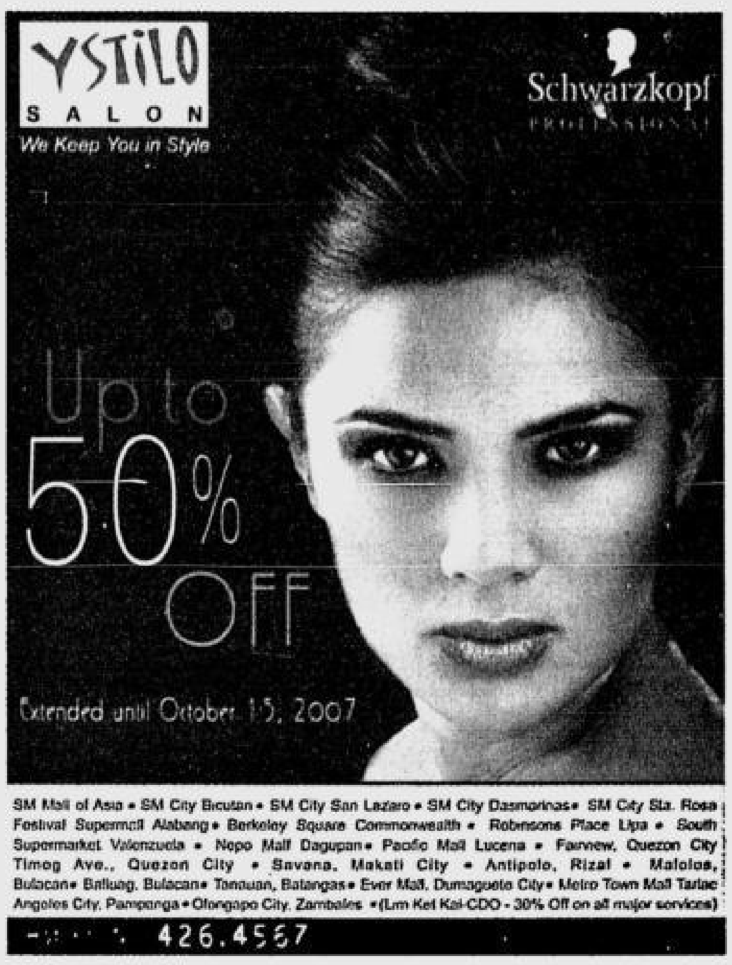

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Beauty as a 'burden'

From page H1

'I went to audition and this director opened the door—in his pajamas'

CHARLIZE'S "detective" look, right: "Me without make up and with my natural hair."

be at 9 on a Saturday night, at the director's house (laughter). I thought, maybe that's how they do it in Hollywood.

So I showed up and this director opened the door and he was in pajamas, like **Hugh Hefner**. He offered me a drink. I stayed for 10 minutes. I was like, "What's going on?" He said, "Tell me about yourself." I said, "Okay, I shall be seeing myself out now." The director still works today and has forgotten that incident. He offered me a part (laughter).

Is the director somebody we know?

Oh, yes (laughter).

Were your looks ever a handicap?

When I was just starting out, everybody knew I came from the modeling industry. That was kind of a hurdle. To be cast in "The Devil's Advocate" was a struggle. I screen-tested five times just based on physicality, not acting skills. "The Yards" was another one.

But after "Monster," I think I got a free ticket (laughter). When I reflect back on my earlier struggles, I don't for a second have any feelings other than they were meant to be. If everything had been handed to me when I was 19, I don't think I would sit here today with the appreciation that I now have for my career.

Can you discuss the ups and downs of an acting career?

You have to go through the downs to enjoy the ups. I don't have many regrets. Life has been good—I have two legs, two arms and my sight is pretty good. I haven't had the flu in a couple of years (laughter). I travel a lot, to countries that are in turmoil.

A part of me always walks with some kind of appreciation. My mother used to say, "Whatever you're going through, you have to always remember that there's somebody out there who is going through it 10 times worse than you." The good stuff has been so amazing, I want to wake up mornings remembering that.

Why do you go to countries that are in turmoil?

I grew up in one of those countries. I don't think you can have a clear perspective or be in a position to talk about anything unless you've actually been there and seen it. I'm always fascinated when people want to talk about African politics but they've never been to Africa.

I'm interested in the world. People in those countries are some of the most beautiful that you'll ever meet because of their resilience and the fact that they've been tested so much.

What do you have in common with Stuart, politically and personally?

We have very similar views. But we're very much individuals first and then we're a couple. That has been our motto. I want him to have his opinions and he feels the same.

How do you deal with each other's successes and failures?

We don't think of it that way. He's had more successes in some areas than I have, and vice-versa. Our relationship isn't based on that. If that was the foundation of our relationship, we'd be on very iffy ground. When you truly love somebody, you want the best for them.

What is your favorite anecdote shared by a fellow thespian?

Michael Caine told me once, "I've made so many movies. Some of them I can't remember the titles. I don't remember how the critics felt about them or how they did at the box-office but I can tell you specific, vivid memories of making those films. That is what I will remember when I lie on my deathbed."

The guys on the set of this movie said that you really got along with them. Do you tend to hang out more with men?

I get along with the girls even better. I can totally hang out with the boys. But I am much more of a girl's girl. I have way more women in my life than I have men in my life. They are from all over the world. There are 35 of us, plus their friends and families—a makeshift family for myself. We go somewhere every Christmas and New Year.

We rent a hotel. On Christmas Eve, before we eat, we sing our national anthems. It takes two hours. So now we cut it to the first verse because of so many different nationalities—from Sri Lanka, Iran, Cuba, Ireland ... Some of them are in the business. Some don't even know the business.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

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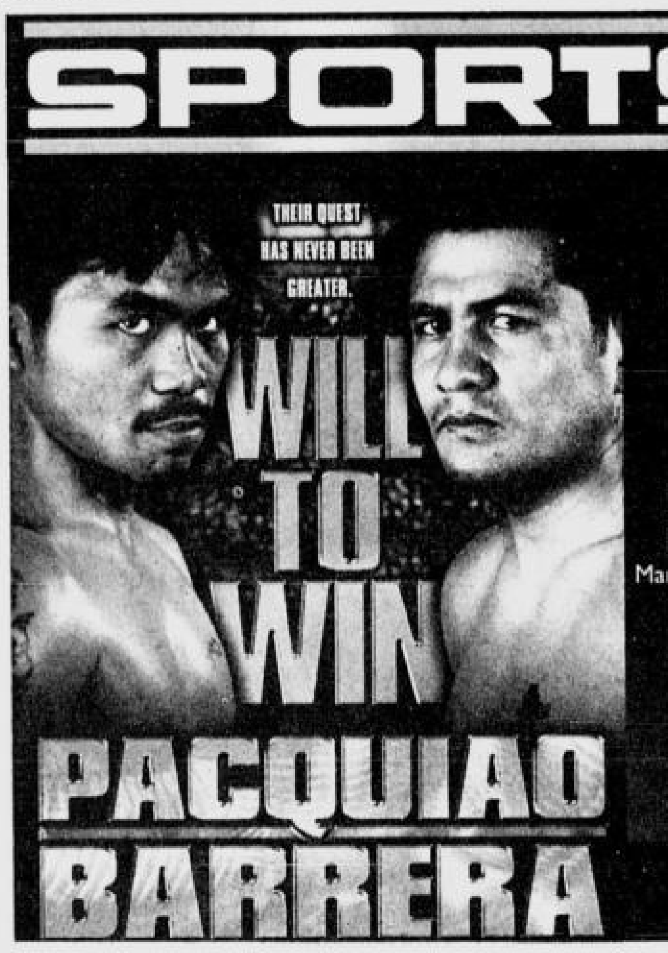
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5:00 PM
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2:00 PM
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 UNDERDOG
6 THE BRAVE ONE/CARTOON NETWORK
PREMIERE CINEMA
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
CENTERSTAGE
RESIDENT EVIL
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
Bookings now accepted. Inquire at 556-2314.
THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
RESIDENT EVIL
CINEMA 2
NO RESERVATION
For ticket reservations, dial 6338976
All major credit cards accepted

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 RESIDENT EVIL
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 RESIDENT EVIL
7 NO RESERVATIONS
8 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
9 UNDERDOG
10 1408
11 SHOOT EM' UP/CARTOON NETWORK
12 RUSH HOUR 3

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 RESIDENT EVIL
5 THE BRAVE ONE
6 NO RESERVATION
7 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
8 1408
9 RESIDENT EVIL
10 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
11 SHOOT EM' UP
12 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 THE HOST/UNDERDOG
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 A LOVE STORY
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 THE BRAVE ONE/1408
6 SHOOT EM' UP
7 RESIDENT EVIL
8 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
9 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
10 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
11 NO RESERVATION
12 CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 NO RESERVATION
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 THE BRAVE ONE/CARTOON NETWORK
7 SHOOT EM' UP
8 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
9 1408
10 UNDERDOG

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 1408/CARTOON NETWORK
5 NO RESERVATION
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 RESERVED
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 RESERVED
6 NO RESERVATION
7 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
8 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
9 UNDERDOG/CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 THE BRAVE ONE/CARTOON NETWORK
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 NO RESERVATION
6 RESIDENT EVIL
7 1408
8 RUSH HOUR 3
9 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10 DISTURBIA
11 UNDERDOG
12 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 DISTURBIA/RESIDENT EVIL
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 UNDERDOG
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 THE HOST
5 ROGUE ASSASSIN
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
7 RESIDENT EVIL
8 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
4 RESERVED
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 SKINWALKERS/CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 UNDERDOG
2 NANCY DREW
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 DISTURBIA/DAYWATCH
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 SKINWALKERS
4 RESERVED

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 CARTOON NETWORK
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 UNDERDOG
5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 DISTURBIA
2 DAYWATCH
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 DISTURBIA
3 SKINWALKERS
4 RESERVED

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 NANCY DREW
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 BLIND DATING
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 NO RESERVATION
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 THE LAST LEGION/NANCY DREW
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG/CATOON NETWORK
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 DISTURBIA
5 THE LAST LEGION
6 RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 THE LAST LEGION
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 UNDERDOG
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

VISAYAS
MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 INVASION
2 RESERVED
3 SKINWALKERS
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 THE BRAVE ONE
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN
7 RESERVED
8 THE LAST LEGION

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 CARTOON NETWORK/RESIDENT EVIL
7 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
8 THE LAST LEGION

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 RESERVED
4 DISTURBIA

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

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AT THE CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

GLORIETTA 1	1 NO RESERVATIONS	2 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	3 ROGUE ASSASIN	4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
GLORIETTA 4	1 I NOW PONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	2 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	3 THX RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 JOSHUA	5 UNDERDOG	6 NO RESERVATIONS	7 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
GREENBELT 1	1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	2 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX NO RESERVATIONS GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 JOSHUA GUARANTEED SEATS	4 UNDERDOG / SHOOT 'EM UP GUARANTEED SEATS	5 I NOW PONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	2 NO RESERVATIONS		
	3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4 ROGUE ASSASIN	5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	3 I NOW PONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	4 THE BRAVE ONE
MARKET! MARKET!	1 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	2 NO RESERVATIONS		
	3 ROGUE ASSASIN	4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	2 ROGUE ASSASIN	3 I NOW PONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY GUARANTEED SEATS	4 NO RESERVATIONS GUARANTEED SEATS
	5 SHOOT 'EM UP	6 UNDERDOG / THE BRAVE ONE	7 THX RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION GUARANTEED SEATS	

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:

Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

glorietta	BPI Appliance Madness September 26 to October 16 at Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT	Jazz Nights September 26, 2007 at the Greenbelt 2 Al Fresco
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Town Cheers Competition September 22 & 23, 2007 at the Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Elliot Yamin of American Idol Live! September 26; 6 pm; OnStage (Cinema 1)
MARKET! MARKET!	Toyota Showcase September 28 to 30, 2007; at the Activity Center
OnStage	Repertory Philippines presents LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST September 15 - October 7, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	FORMS & SPACES: An Exhibition by MAIA & Aaron Bautista September 10 to 27, 2007; ArtistSpace For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Mother Care Exhibit September 16 to 30; 10 am to 9 pm; Restoration Area, Level 3

EXCLUSIVE
VIVA

Opens October 3 at Glorietta 4 & Greenbel 3 Cinemas

"FROM THE CREATOR OF TRAINING DAY" & "THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS"

CHRISTIAN BALE
FREDDIE RODRIGUEZ
EVA LONGORIA

"An Amazing performance, one of the best of the year..."
— Brian Tallerico, UGO

Harsh Times

TAKE A RIDE TO THE EDGE

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)

urban beats

Superbands at Glorietta

6pm - 7:30pm

Sept. 20
Glorietta Activity Center
The Ambassadors
Urbandub

Oct. 12
Glorietta 3 Park
Sinosikat
Hilera

Oct. 13
Glorietta 3 Park
Kastigo
Kjwan

Oct. 20
Glorietta 4 Park
Taken By Cars
Mojofly

Oct. 31
Glorietta Activity Center
Stonefree
Cambio

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA Ticket Price THX:P160 130 Indie Sine:130 632-8116

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3 • THX
12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30

2 ANG LALAKE sa PAROLA
12:40 2:30 4:20 6:10 8:00 9:50

3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP 10:00AM

6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP 10:00AM

7 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

8 indieSine: GULONG
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

9 NO RESERVATION
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

10 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

A FILM BY SOCKIE FERNANDEZ

GULONG is about friendship, love and life. The story is told from the point-of-view of Apao, a smart, kindhearted boy whose quest for an old bicycle reveals the stuff he is made of. With him on this adventure are his insan Momoy and his best friend Tom-Tom. The story begins with a question: How are our 3 friends going to spend their summer vacation? Tom-Tom suggests that they go to his uncle's fishpond, an hour bike ride from where they live. Apao and Momoy have a problem as they don't own a bike! There are no jeeps and it is too far to walk. Momoy finds an old bicycle but the owner, an old woman named Tita Maggie, will only give it to him if he pays her a hundred pesos. He agrees and promises to come back with the money the next day. This starts a series of events which affects Apao, his friends, his family and even his community. In the end, a discarded 40-year old bicycle connects the past to present and becomes a catalyst for healing old wounds and reviving a love affair that has long been left for dead.

MTRCB Rating: G

watch this only at Robinsons Movieworld Galleria
September 22 to October 02

IndieSine

ERMITA Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

2 SHOOT 'EM UP
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
10:10 12:35 3:00 5:25 7:45 10:00

4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
12:00 2:25 4:50 7:10 9:25

5 NO RESERVATION
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

THE WILL TO WIN
PACQUIAO vs BARRERA II
SOLAR

Watch LIVE via SATELLITE
GALLERIA • MANILA • METRO EAST •

OCTOBER 7 • Sunday • 8:00AM

FREE hotdog, popcorn and drink for every ticket purchased

TICKETS are available at the ticket booth

TICKET PRICE: P600 (Galleria & Ermita P500 (Metro East)

METRO EAST Ticket Price: P100 / P110 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
1:00 3:35 6:15 9:00

2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
11:25 1:50 4:10 6:40 9:05

4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 11:20, 1:40
RESIDENT EVIL 3 4:00 6:20 8:40

5 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00

6 THE BRAVE ONE
1:10 3:40 6:20 9:00

7 NO RESERVATION
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

8 SHOOT 'EM UP
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

NOVALICHES Ticket Price: P90 / P100 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 NO RESERVATION
3 SHOOT 'EM UP
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

PIONEER Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-5378

1 NO RESERVATION
1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40

2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
11:40 1:55 4:10 6:25 8:40

3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 8:45

4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
1:15 3:45 6:15 8:45

STA. ROSA Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 THE LAST LEGION
2 NANCY DREW
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

LIPA Ticket Price: P90 (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 DAYWATCH
4 DISTURBIA

DASMARIÑAS Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 DISTURBIA
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

IMUS Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 THE HOST
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

ANGELES Ticket Price: P 90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 SKINWALKERS
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

TARLAC

1 THE INVASION
2 A LOVE STORY
3 1408

STARMILLS Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (045) 875-1927

1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 SKINWALKERS
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 THE BRAVE ONE

BACOLOD Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 NANCY DREW
4 DISTURBIA
5 WAITRESS
6 LIGAW LIHAM

ILOILO Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 UNDERDOG
5 SKINWALKERS
6 STOMP THE YARD

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 NO RESERVATIONS
MTRCB GP 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
MTRCB R-13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

3 CHUCK & LARRY
MTRCB R-13
1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30

4 UNDERDOG
(GP) 12:00, 1:50,
THE BRAVE ONE
(R-13) 3:50, 6:25, 9:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU (GP)
12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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Call 633-7851, loc. 171/170 or 633-2227
for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza

SHANG CINEPLEX

THE MOST AWAITED

THE WILL TO WIN
PACQUIAO vs BARRERA II
SUPER FEATHERWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
OCTOBER 7, 2007 • SUNDAY • 8 AM

TICKET PRICE: P600.00

CINEMA GATES OPEN AT 7:00 am
CALL 633-2227 FOR MORE DETAILS

CLICK!

KRISH Enriquez

JOBIE Re

NICOLE Saint

'Game Girls' search on QTV-11 tonight

THE SEARCH FOR five young women who will comprise the next pop group Lineage 2 Game Girls will have its pilot episode on QTV-11's reality job search show "May Trabaho Ka!" tonight at 8 p.m.

The first episode will show the contenders during audition, makeover sessions, talent workshops and production numbers.

Winners will receive a talent management contract, an endorsement deal with Lineage 2 worth P100,000 and prizes from corporate sponsors.

Crawford

The 22 finalists are: Roan Jayco, Manila; Krish Enriquez, Caloocan; Nicole Saint, Antipolo; Liz Grumo, Antipolo; Diane Fox, Manila; Sarah Josef, Cainta; Jastine Romanes, Mandaluyong; Vhia Castro, Quezon City; Mycie Villanueva, Pasig; Aian Miller, Pasig; M Paulino, Bulacan; Sophie Alastra, Russia; Iya Argel, Boracay; Aira Ayson, San Juan; Jayzel Domingo, Quezon City; Lorraine Sy, Manila; Ariane Fowler, Laguna; Pilar Paraiso, Antipolo; Jackie Manglona, Manila; Jobie Reprado, Manila; Billy Abeleda, San Juan; and Doren Nobles, Taguig.

'Mel & Joey' anniversary

"Mel & Joey," hosted by broadcaster Mel Tiangco and TV host Joey de Leon, will celebrate its third anniversary in a special episode tonight on GMA-7.

The episode will tour viewers across the country and will be giving away P30,000 to representatives on a special mission—to lend a helping hand to underprivileged folks.

The representatives are Neni Vaygand of Luzon, Rodolfo Vista, Daisy Galon, Larissa Banes and Onofre Suson of Visayas and couple Jun and Marlyn Lamban of Mindanao.

Araneta Center
aranetacenter.net

Gateway AliMALL FarmersPlaza Farmers Market

MANDARIN ORIENTAL
CAFE & DELI

SUNDAY BUFFET LUNCH
AN ARRAY OF SALADS, APPETIZERS, RIB EYE STEAK AND DESSERTS FOR ONLY P780++

SUNDAY LUNCH HAS NEVER BEEN BETTER.

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ALL THEATERS WITH DOLBY DIGITAL EX ULTRA SOUND

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

...CHUCK & LARRY 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20
UNDERDOG 2:00 / 6:50
NO RESERVATION 1:50 / 4:30 / 7:10 / 9:50
RESIDENT EVIL : EXTINCTION 12:10 / 2:35 / 4:25 / 5:00 / 7:25 / 9:15 / 10:00
THE BRAVE ONE 4:10 / 9:30
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 1:50 / 6:30
I 'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 12:20 / 2:05 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 6:45 / 7:20 / 9:40
ROUGE ASSASSIN 4:10 / 9:00
NO RESERVATION 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00

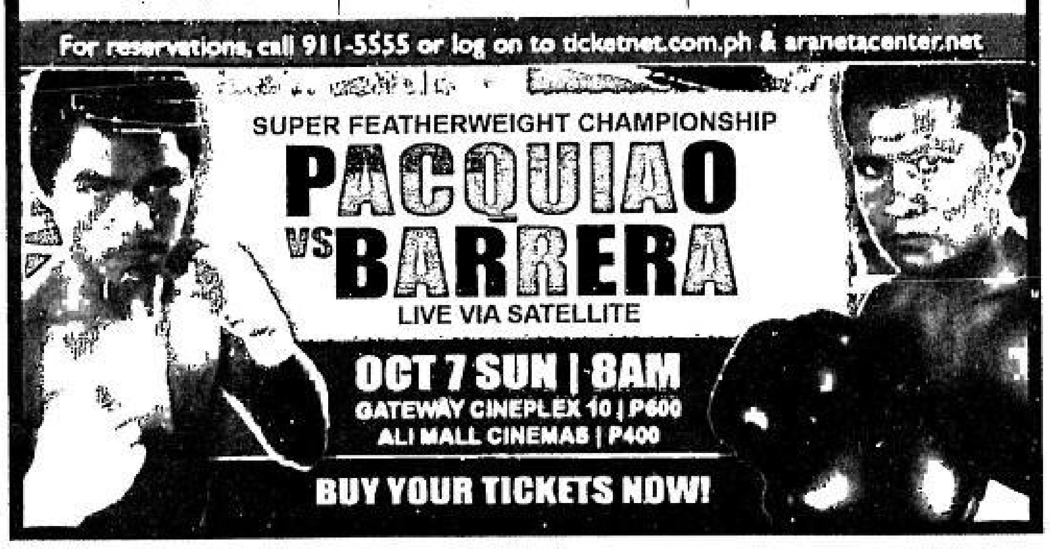
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

GH PLATINUM CINEMA

AliMALL CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

RESIDENT EVIL : EXTINCTION 1:05 / 3:30 / 5:55 / 8:20
SHOOT EM UP 12:40 / 2:30 / 4:20 / 6:10 / 8:00
I 'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 12:15 / 1:15 / 3:35 / 5:55 / 8:15

For reservations, call 911-5555 or log on to ticketnet.com.ph & aranetacenter.net


SUPER FEATHERWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
PACQUIAO vs BARRERA
LIVE VIA SATELLITE
OCT 7 SUN | 8AM
GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10 | P600
ALI MALL CINEMAS | P400
BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Band contest finalists to record qualifying songs on CD

HILERA

SPIN

FINALISTS IN THE 2007 Nescafe Soundskool college band competition will appear in a CD compilation that includes all their qualifying songs.

The music contest also offers aspiring artists the opportunity to learn from intimate sessions with Hale, Sugarfree, Sandwich, Orange and Lemons, Sponge Cola and Moonstar 88 in mentor workshops in Boracay and Manila.

Grand prize includes P250,000 in cash, a record contract with EMI Philippines, and P150,000 worth of musical equipment for the winner's school.

The contest has led to the discovery of the band Hilera from Kalayaan College. It is currently one of the youngest acts in the local music industry.

For more information, log on to nescafe.com.ph.

'Clarity'

Lipton Hot Tea's "Get in the Zone" campaign features Up Dharma Down and the song "Clarity" which can be downloaded at www.getinthe-zone.com.ph.

The song highlights the need to focus and rise above the noise and daily interruptions of contemporary living.

'HSM 2'

The "High School Musical 2" soundtrack album (Walt Disney Records) features localized versions of various songs by six Asian artists from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Local recording artist Nikki Gil has been tapped to do a version of "Gotta Go My Own Way."

The original "High School Musical" soundtrack has sold seven million CDs. In the Philippines, it went triple-platinum.

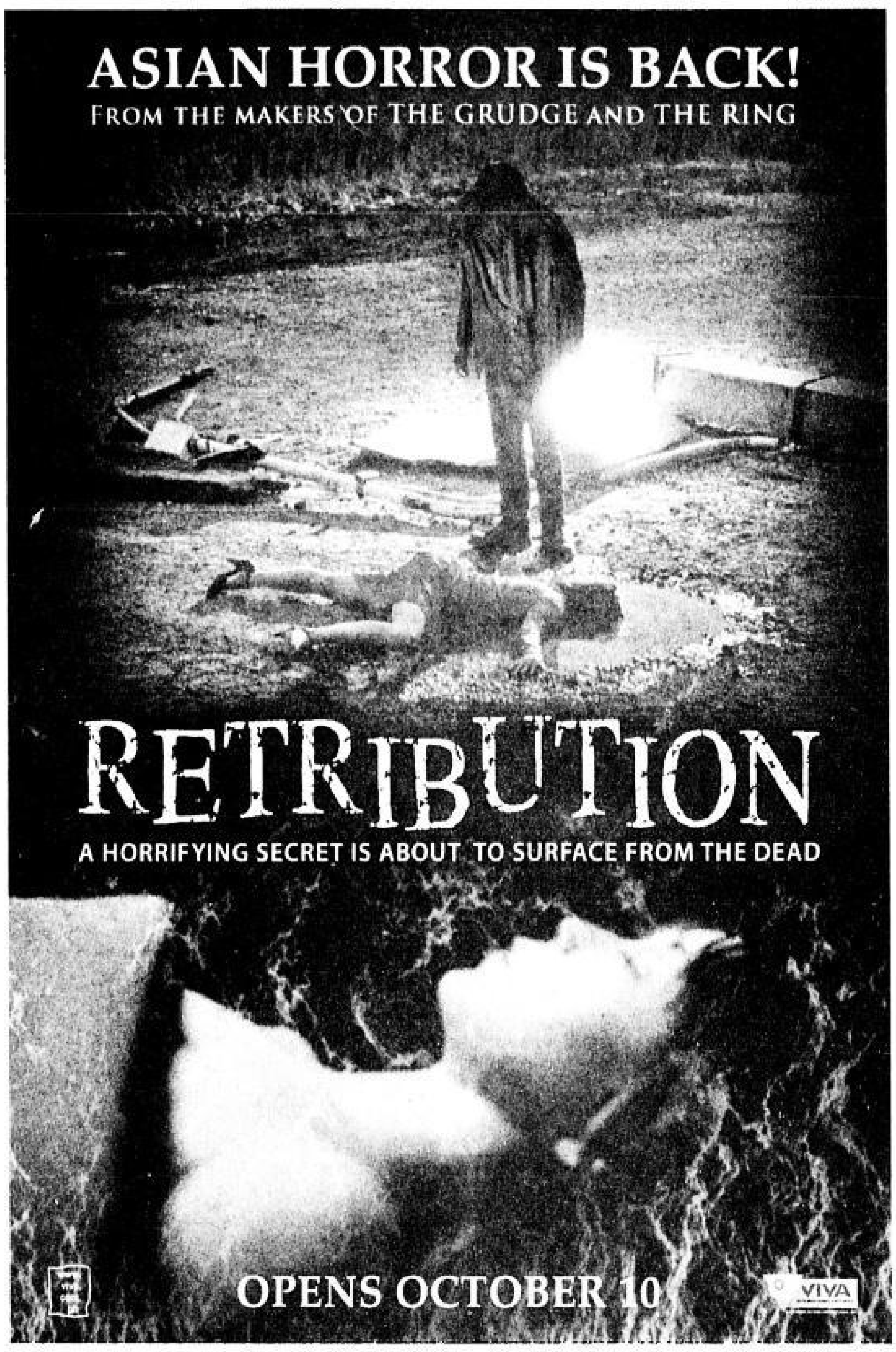
James Taylor for Starbucks

LOS ANGELES—Coffee shop chain Starbucks Corp. announced that its new Hear Music record label is set to release a live album by James Taylor this coming holiday season.

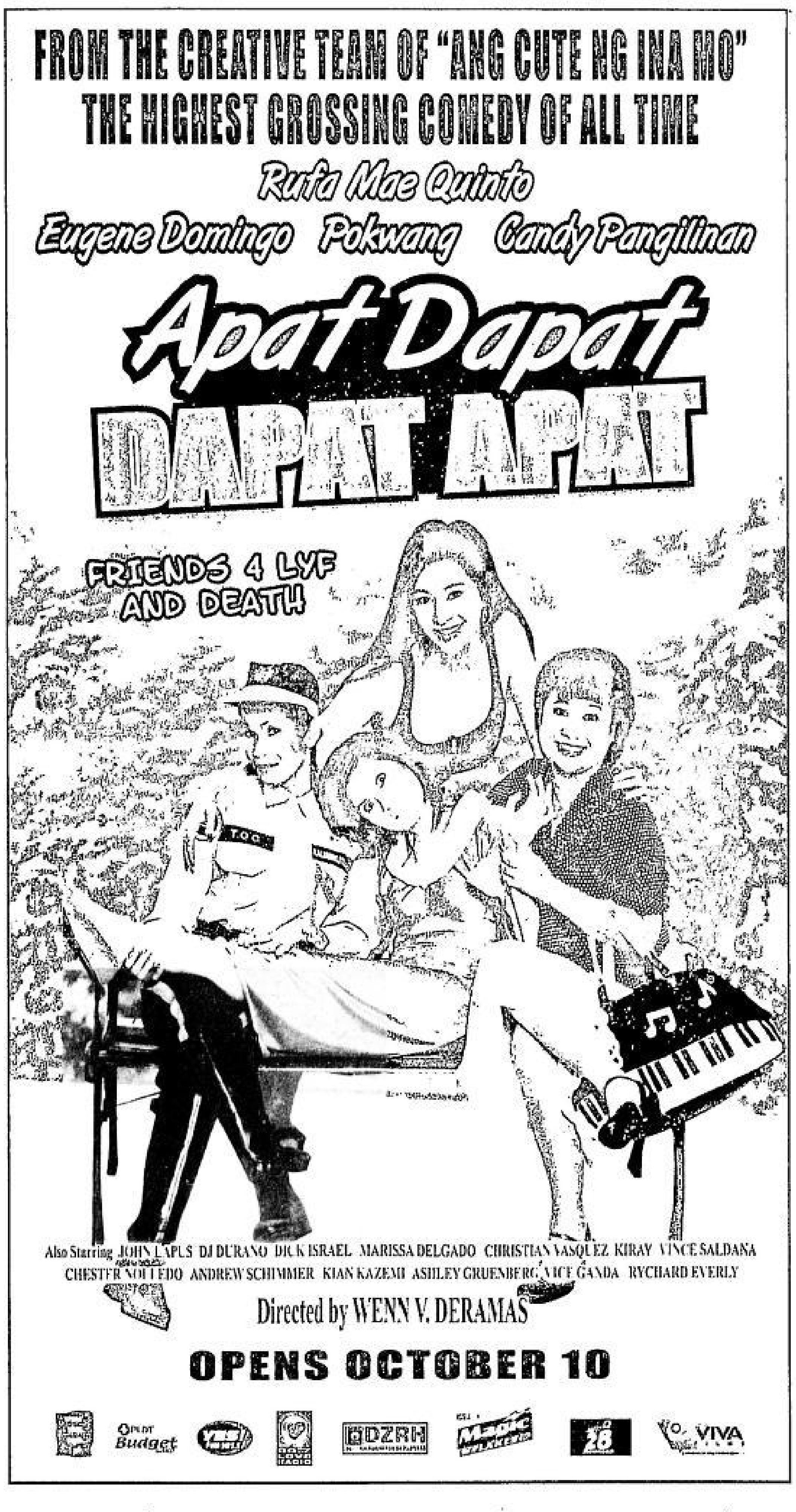
The album, "One Man Band," will be the third to be released by Hear Music, which was formed by Starbucks and Concord Music Group earlier this year. An album by Joni Mitchell will hit stores in September.

The label's first release, Paul McCartney's "Memory Almost Full," has sold 496,000 copies in the US. *Reuters*

#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA!
$24,168,865
HIGHEST 3-DAY WEEKEND GROSS (Sept. 21-23)
NOW SHOWING
We have witnessed the BEGINNING...
We have seen the APOCALYPSE...
Now we face EXTINCTION.
MILLA JOVOVICH
RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION


ASIAN HORROR IS BACK!
FROM THE MAKERS OF THE GRUDGE AND THE RING
RETRIBUTION
A HORRIFYING SECRET IS ABOUT TO SURFACE FROM THE DEAD
OPENS OCTOBER 10
VIVA

THE ORIGINAL GANG from "KUNG FU HUSTLE" is BACK
MORE ACTION. MORE SPECIAL EFFECTS. MORE LAUGHS.
OPENS OCT.10
KUNG FU FIGHTER


FROM THE CREATIVE TEAM OF "ANG CUTE NG INA MO"
THE HIGHEST GROSSING COMEDY OF ALL TIME
Rufa Mae Quinto
Eugene Domingo
Pokwang
Candy Pangilinan
Apat Dapat
DAPAT APAT
FRIENDS 4 LYF AND DEATH
Also Starring JOHN LAPUS DJ DURANO DICK ISRAEL MARISSA DELGADO CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ KIRAY VINCE SALDANA CHESTER NOLLEDO ANDREW SCHIMMER KIAN KAZEMI ASHLEY GRUENBERG VICE GANDA RYCHARD EVERLY
Directed by WENN V. DERAMAS
OPENS OCTOBER 10
Budget
DZRH
VIVA

'LIGAW LIHAM'

Waiting for a response

REVIEW

KARYLLE

By Jayson Brizuela
Contributor

MUCH LIKE THE UNCOLLECTED letters that figure prominently in this independent production, novice filmmaker Jay Abello's "Ligaw Liham" is an important piece of Philippine cinema that has yet to reach its intended recipients.

That is, if the screening we caught recently at Robinsons Galleria's IndieSine is any indication. With just a handful of people inside the theater, this mini-masterpiece may just go to waste.

"Liham" should be seen not only by film buffs, cineastes, academicians, and critics; it is a movie for the masses, who will surely enjoy and relate to it. It's unfortunate that this top 10 finalist in the recent 2007 Cinemalaya Festival, may never have a wider commercial release.

Coming-of-age story

Unlike other indie productions that may either be too artsy or overly intellectual for us "regular" moviegoers, "Liham" is a simple story about a time when life was less complicated and love was purer.

Shot entirely in Negros and set in a small rural town, the film is a coming-of-age story centering on Nor (John Michael Lee), the town errand boy who has secret feelings for Karen (Karylle), a young wife whose devotion to her husband abroad is evident in the letters she writes constantly.

When the town mayor secretly orders temporary closure of the post office due to administration problems, the letters stop coming. The townspeople's lives are thrown in disarray, none more so than Nor's, who discovers the closure and is coaxed by Mando, the scheming postmaster's assistant, to read the townspeople's letters.

He comes across Karen's letters and, unable to bear her despair over her husband's absence, he begins to write back as her husband. Thus, he frees himself of his secret feelings and experiences for the first time what it's like to be loved by Karen. If only through letters.

Karylle turns out a very good performance. "Liham" may just be her ticket to more serious, if mainstream, roles. She melts into Karen and the pop star gloss is gone—leaving only a simple barrio lass pining for a beloved.

Versatile actor

Actor John Gilbert Arceo as Mando is also a revelation. Though relatively unknown, he has the polish of a stage actor. It isn't hard to imagine him "clicking" with mainstream audiences—even in comedy. In a perfect world, he will further build his reputation as versatile actor in the mold of Pen Medina.

George Macainan, another virtual unknown, is likewise outstanding as Nor's Tatang, a one-time would-be school principal now paralyzed from the waist-down. He conveys the bitterness of an old man whose wisdom is as immense as his thirst for current events and "bilog" (gin).

But the biggest applause goes to young actor John Michael Lee, who plays the simpleton lead, Nor. A dead-ringer for Carlo Aquino, Lee succeeds in singularly carrying the movie on his shoulders. Free of over-written dialogue professing his character's secret feelings for Karen, he still succeeds in conveying the innocence of young love.

Straightforward

The movie is so straightforward and skillfully orchestrated, that small "faults" can be overlooked, for example, dialogue delivery that reminds us too much of theater; or a montage that shows a dreamy Karylle sitting on a raft drifting down a river. While her clothes are attuned to the era, we wonder if they aren't too short for a small provincial town.

"Ligaw Liham" proves that it is possible to make a quality and entertaining Pinoy movie without a big budget, big stars, and big compromises. It also shows that it's possible to make independent, artistic movies without taking on heavy topics such as sex, gender, incest, rape, murder or drugs.

But like an unopened love letter that holds inside all the writer's feelings, it waits ... and waits for a response.

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DOLBY DIGITAL

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NO RESERVATIONS G 11:15,1:35,3:55, 6:15,8:35	SHOOT 'EM UP R13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00	NO RESERVATIONS G 1:05,3:25,5:45, 8:05,10:30

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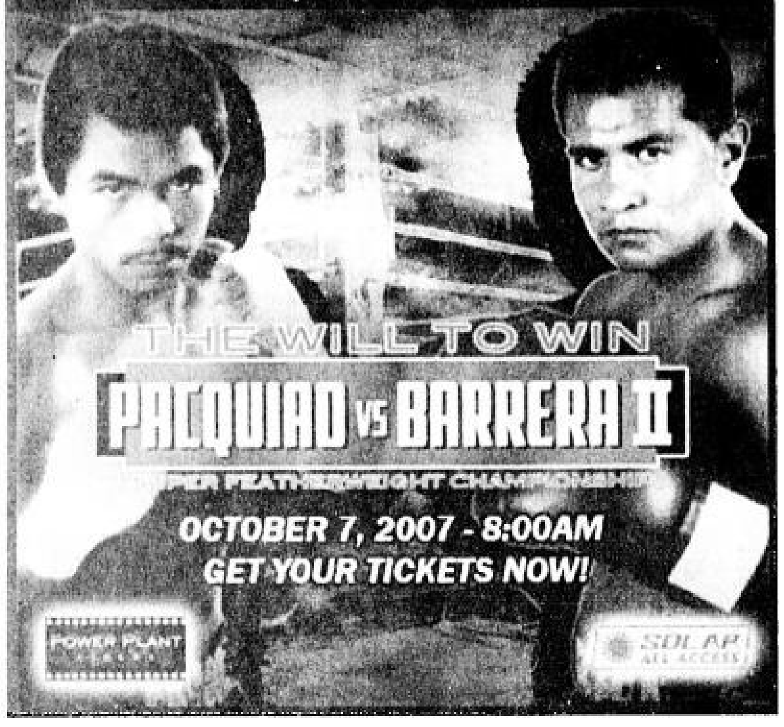
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PACQUIAO vs BARRERA II
SUPER FEATHERWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
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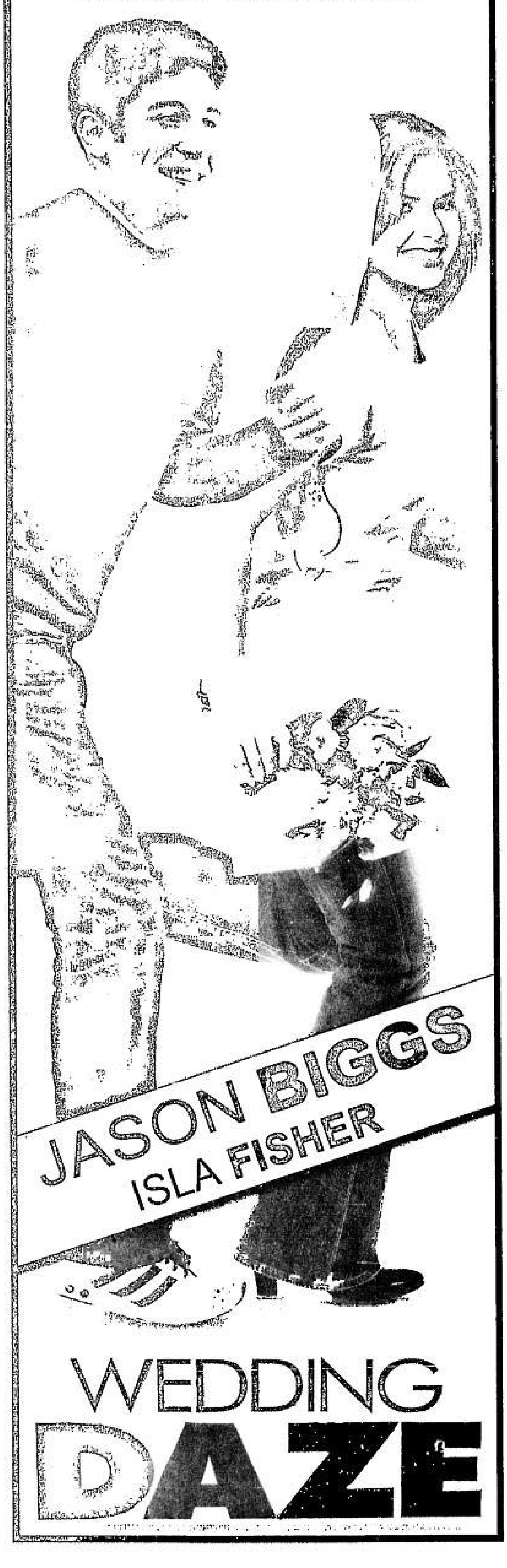
THEY JUST MET A FEW MINUTES AGO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R-13

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8:00 , 10:35
R-13

CINEMA 5 NO RESERVATIONS
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GP

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October 12 & 13, 2007	Apo Hiking Society	8:00 PM

TEATRINO

Sep 27, Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM
October 25, 2007	Ogie Alcasid	8:00 PM
October 28, 2007	John Lesaca	8:00 PM

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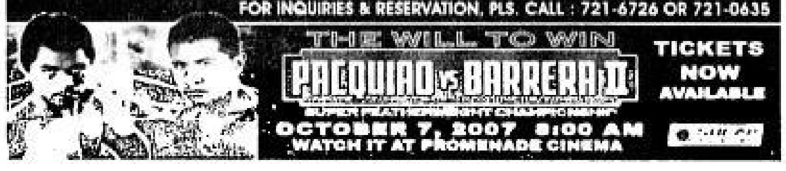
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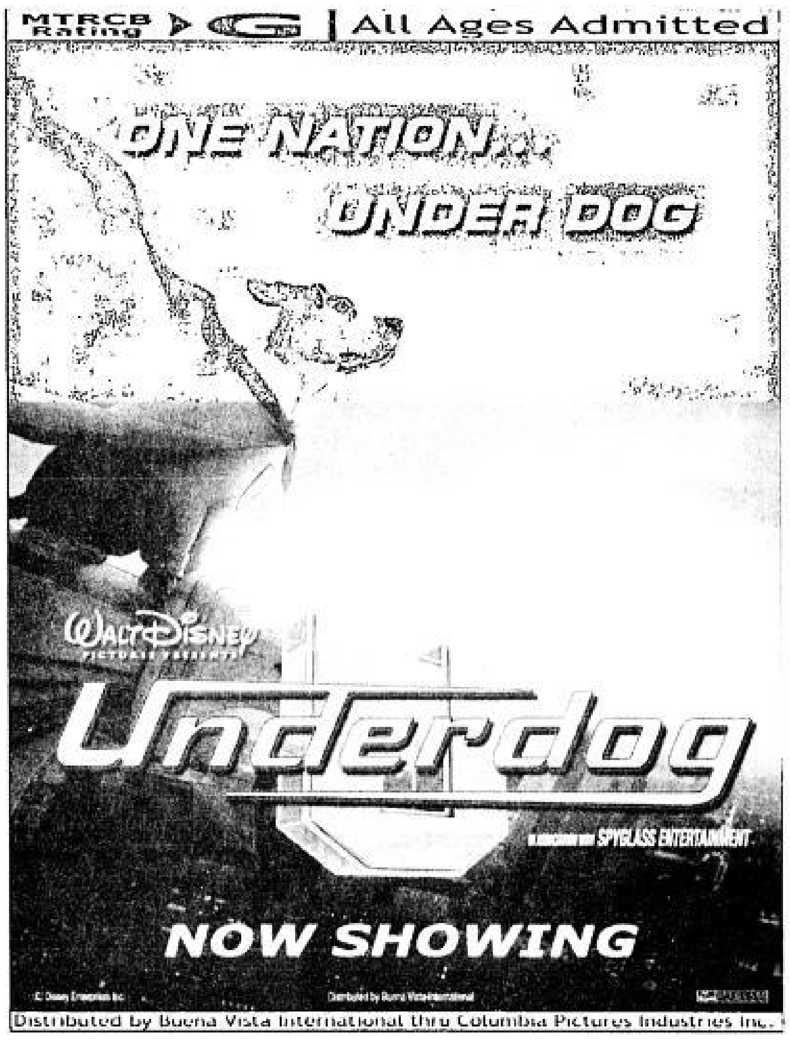
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2	RESIDENT EVIL 3 1:35, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40, 11:00 R-13
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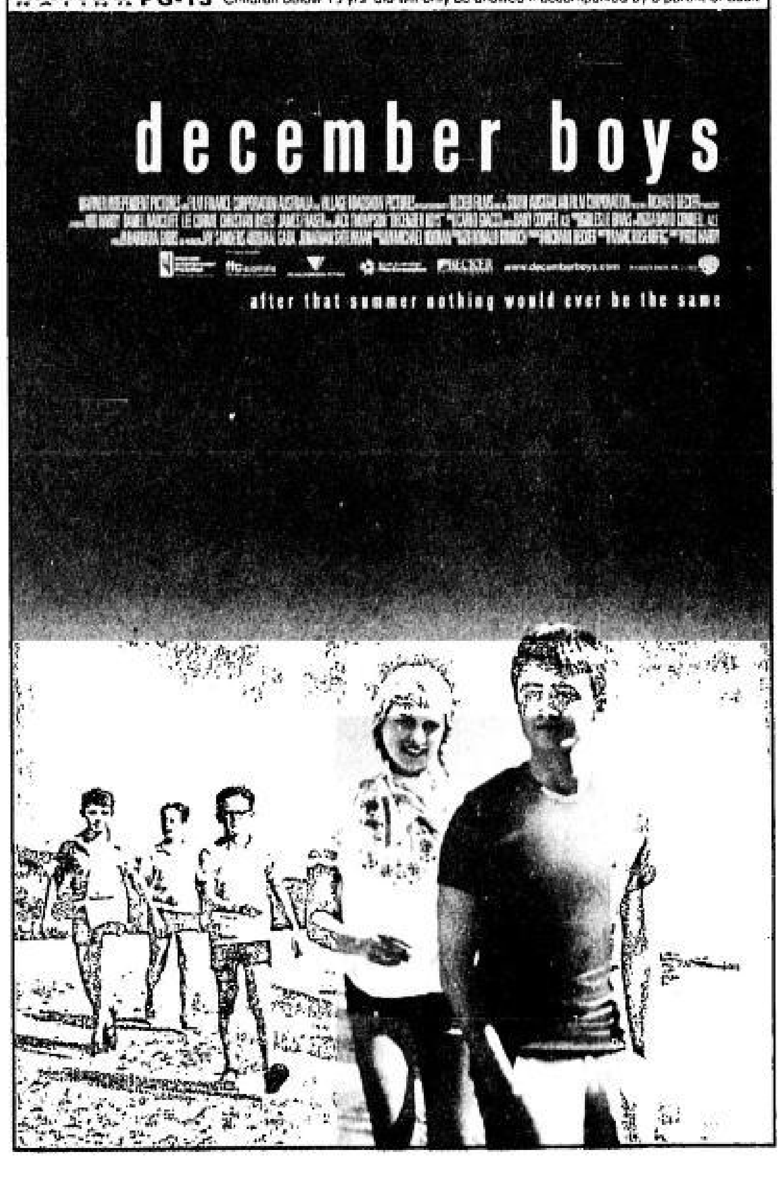
december boys
after that summer nothing would ever be the same

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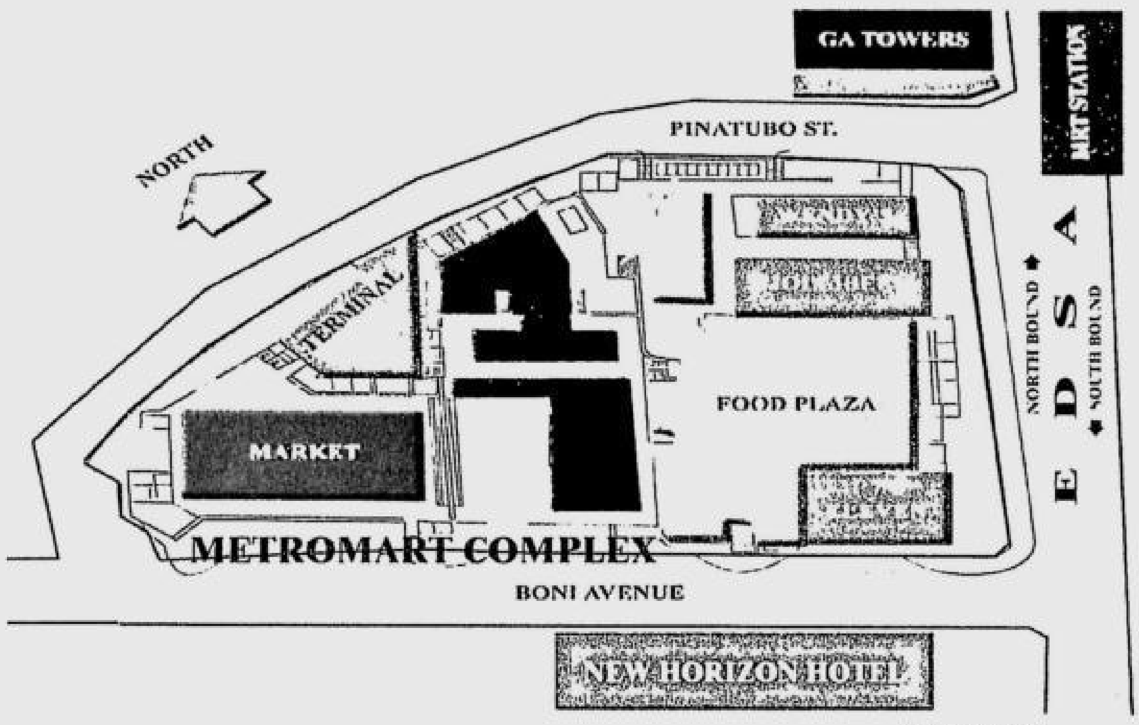
PRIME PROPERTY FOR SALE



Vicinity Map

INVITATION TO BID

The Livelihood Corporation (LIVECOR), is offering for sale in cash or installment the property described below:

Description	: Commercial Complex
Area	: 7,428.0 square meters
Address	: Along EDSA cor. Boni Avenue and Pinatubo Sts., Mandaluyong City
Floor Price	: ₱ 426,977,000.00
Terms of Sale	: Cash or Installment (Best Offer)

1. The sale of the property shall be on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis.
2. Bidders bond shall not be less than 1% of the floor price.
3. Bidding documents can be secured upon payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 at the following address.

BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE
The Livelihood Corporation (LIVECOR)
7th Floor One Corporate Plaza,
845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City.

4. Pre-Bid Conference will be on November 09, 2007, Friday at 2:00PM, Conference Room, The Livelihood Corporation, 7th Floor One Corporate Plaza, 845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City.
5. The sealed bids should be dropped at the designated drop box located at the security desk of the Livelihood Corporation, 7th Floor One Corporate Plaza, 845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City on or before 2:00PM on November 29, 2007, Thursday.
6. The property is available for inspection to all bidders during business days and hours from Mondays to Fridays.

For more details, please contact Luz C. Jacinto, BAC Secretariat at tel. no. (02) 817-07-71 / 817-04-64 and Cell No. 0918-6078530 or Felix Samson, Assistant Project Head, EDMD at tel. no. 531-3324 and cell no. 0928-3038068.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS AND TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

For the Bids and Awards Committee:

(Sgd.) **E. ALEXIS G. SEVIDAL, CESO IV**
Chairman

(PDI–Sept. 23, 30 & Oct. 7, 2007)

MANILA NORTH TOLLWAYS CORPORATION
2nd Floor, Benpres Building, Exchange Road cor. Meralco Ave.
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
Tel. No. 02-6384380 / Fax. 02-6386276
Website: www.mntc.com

24 September 2007

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

Manila North Tollways Corporation (MNTC), through its Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), invites interested international and local contractors to apply for pre-qualification and, if found qualified, to bid for the following:

The Project : Construction of Manila North Tollways Project – Phase 2 (Segment 8.1) C-5 Northern Link Expressway Project (Mindanao Avenue Extension to NLEX)

Brief Description of the Works : The construction of approximately 2.7km of 2x2 dual carriageway asphalt concrete roads, full cloverleaf interchange, overpasses, service roads, toll platforms, operations and maintenance facilities, installation of Fixed Operating Equipment (FOE) Systems (consisting of toll collection, traffic management and telecommunication equipment), supplied by MNTC, and associated ancillary works.

Project Duration : 365 calendar days

To be qualified to bid for this Project, a contractor shall submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) and properly accomplished Pre-qualification Documents (PDs), and meet the following major criteria which include, among others: (a) partnership/corporation/joint venture with a valid Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) license/special license with principal classification and category of general engineering "AAA" and with project range classification of Large B for roads, highways, pavement, railways, airport horizontal structure and bridges, (b) completion of similar project valued at least Php 1.0 billion during the last 5 years, and (c) Net Financial Contracting Capacity of at least Php 1.5 billion, with a credit line commitment/cash deposit certificate valued at least Php 100 million as of the date of submission of the PDs.

The deadlines for the relevant activities are as shown below:

1. Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI)	From To	: 8:00am of 25 September 2007 : 5:00pm of 03 October 2007
2. Issuance of Pre-qualification Documents (PDs)	From To	: 8:00am of 01 October 2007 : 5:00pm of 08 October 2007
3. Pre-submittal Meeting	09 October 2007 (time and venue to be advised)	
4. Request for Clarifications	Deadline	: 5:00pm of 11 October 2007
5. MNTC's Issuance of Addenda, if necessary	Deadline	: 5:00pm of 16 October 2007
6. Submission of Accomplished PDs	Deadline	: 5:00pm of 24 October 2007
7. Issuance of Bid Documents (BDs)	Date to be advised	
8. Pre-Bid Conference	Within 1 week after the issuance of BDs	
9. Submission of Bids	Date of submission to be determined but no later than 60 days from the date of pre-bid conference	

The PDs may be obtained from MNTC's office at the address noted above. The MNTC PBAC will issue hard copies of the PDs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00).

The MNTC PBAC will issue hard copies of the BDs at the same address to qualified bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 50,000.00).

MNTC reserves the right to accept or reject any LOI, PDs and bid, without giving any reasons, to waive any required formality or technical deficiencies, and to terminate the bidding process at anytime before contract award, without incurring any liability to the affected parties.

For inquiries on this invitation, you may contact Mr. Renato R. Martinez or Mr. Nemesio G. Castillo at telephone numbers 02-6384380/02-6388922.

APPROVED:

(SGD.) **ANGEL S. ONG**
MNTC PBAC Chairman

(PDI–Sept 24 & 30, 2007)

Keppel Batangas

Keppel Batangas Shipyard, a shipyard engaged in shiprepair and shipbuilding is in need of personnel for the following positions:

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7. **Naval Architects**
8. **Management Trainees**

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- Must have at least 2-5 years experience in similar position
- Preferably a resident of Batangas or nearby provinces

(Position No. 8)
- Must be newly graduates or students graduating for school year 2007-2008.

Interested applicants are requested to submit or email full resumé together with relevant credentials (i.e., school diplomat/transcript, NBI/Police clearance) and 1x1 recent photos.

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Email: hrm@keppelpm.com

or

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) EQUIPMENT FOR THE AHON PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM

[IAEB No. GOP/07-DSWD-020]

1. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), through the General Appropriations Act for CY 2007 (FY 2007 Budget R.A. 9336 As Reenacted), Protective Services Fund (A.II.c.3.c), intends to apply the sum of **Four Million One Hundred Seventy-Two Thousand Three Hundred Pesos (P4,172,300.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **"Supply and Delivery of Information Technology (IT) Equipment for the Ahon Pamilyang Pilipino Program"** with IAEB No. GOP/07-DSWD-020, broken down as follows:

Lot No.	Particulars	Quantity	Approved Budget for the Contract (In Philippine Peso)
1	Digital Duplicator with stand	1 unit	150,000.00
2	Copier Machine	1 unit	65,000.00
3	Biometric/Finger Scanner	26 units	130,000.00
4	Server	1 unit	900,000.00
5	Storage Area Network	1 unit	700,000.00
6	Hi-End Branded Desktop Computer	8 units	1,540,000.00
	Desktop Computers	26 units	
	Notebook Computer	2 units	
7	Switch (24 port)	1 unit	295,000.00
	Wireless Router	26 units	
8	Network Printer	1 unit	150,000.00
	Printer (for use with mobile notebook)	1 unit	
9	ID Printer	1 unit	100,000.00
10	USB Pen Drive	6 units	82,300.00
	Optical Mouse (for Laptop)	3 units	
	DVD Writer	1 unit	
	Scanner	1 unit	
11	Digital Video Camera	1 unit	60,000.00
Total Approved Budget for the Contract:			**4,172,300.00**

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the **"Supply and Delivery of Information Technology Equipment (IT) for the Ahon Pamilyang Pilipino Program."** Delivery of the GOODS is required within Fifteen (15) working days upon receipt of the Notice to Proceed. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from DSWD BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from Monday to Friday between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.
5. **A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) starting September 27, 2007 until October 19, 2007.** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. **The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 8, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. at the Big Board Room (4th Floor), DSWD Central Office, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Quezon City.**
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before October 22, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash, manager's check or cashier's check and in an amount equivalent to at least one percent (1%) of the ABC of the particular Lot to which the bidder intends to participate. Combination of two (2) or more of any of the foregoing forms is not allowed. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. **Bid opening shall be on October 22, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the Big Board Room (4th Floor), DSWD Central Office, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Quezon City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
9. The Lowest Calculated Bidder (LCB) will be required to deliver a demo unit for purposes of testing, which will be conducted by the Technical Working Group (TWG), together with the Management Information System Service (MISS) during the Post-qualification stage.
10. The award of contract is on per lot basis.
11. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

THE BAC CHAIRPERSON
DSWD Bids and Awards Committee
c/o BAC Secretariat
2nd Floor, DSWD Old Building,
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Quezon City
Telefax no.: 951-7116
Trunkline No.: 931-8101 Local 217

(SGD) DIR. ARNEL GARCIA
BAC Vice Chairperson

(PDI–Sept 30, 2007)

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LEGAL

Notice is Hereby Given that the Estate of the late ARCADIA R. IMPELIDO who died on May 18, 2005 was Extrajudicially Settled By & among Her surviving Heirs on Sept. 15, 2007 before Notary Public ATTY. GREGORIO T. VITERBO, JR. of Quezon City as per Doc. No. 299 Page No. 61 Book No. VII series of 2007.
(PDI-Sept. 16,23 & 30, 2007)

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134sqm Dabiana Subd Pasig City 1M Call Lito 09159385826

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BNew Villa Divina Hse & Lot # 90 Dona Josefa Ave. North Susana, Comml QC 7.5M nr guard house 09153560644

DonAntonioHgtsQC
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•Kamuning #168K-1st P1M dp 9219967/0255; 09178865431

Kamuning 4sty Comml/Resdl 7.3M 4352186 ; 09204330282

P1.2M LAS PINAS 8054686

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PROJ3 BNEW NR LRT STN #18-B Dao 09204330282

•PROVIDENT #228 Riverside 9219967/0255 ; 09178865431

ROOSEVELT P1.8M 2BR 2TB W/GARAGE 09178038925

Rush MAJOR DIZON IVC Marikina City 9114774 / 4364495 look 4 Emma

SIKATUNA VILL B'new #32-C Mahiyain 09204330282

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59sqm NR La Salle St Scho w/Parking 2TB Tel 400-9407

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LOT

3LOT 762 SQM GUAD NUEVO PLS CALL 09195998039 DIRECT BUYER ONLY NO TEXT PLEASE

BETTER LIVING 260m² 8240043

Lakeshore Pampanga 229m² P5,200 /sqm 09178227770

LOT 70.50 Sq Marvey Quezon City Col Bambi 09185577250

Ph 1 Blk 3 Lot 7 Ayala Westgrove 604sqm @ 8.5K Neg 09228366168

RANCHO P2 MRKNA 494SQM 0919-8686800

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LOT

WOODRIDGE HGTS 204m² lot only nr UP/Katipunan P9520 per m² 4545667;09189235216

BUSINESS SPACE

Dental Clinic For Sale Rm. 224 Atrium Bldg. Mktl City Tel. 8114071•8236047

RESORT

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

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Colums Facing Pool FulFurn 2BR2TB Prkg/Mdrm 8979417

CONDO NR SM CNTRPONT 2BR 8138420 8133568

Thse 3sty 135m² 1714 Plaza Dilao Pandacan 4br 2tb dining kitchen liv 9420654 R. Macalinao 09173736642

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QUEZON CITY

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FOR LEASE

CONDO CLASICA TOWER 112 Sq 50T 8138420 8133568

OFFICE SPACE 175 Sq Pasay Rd Makati 8138420 8133568

One Salcedo Place 2BR 2STY w/ Garden Prkg MDRM 6317348 09178011188

TOWNHOUSE TAGAYTAY Ovr looking 2BR 09209039193

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

440M² WAREHSE W/ OFC SPACE 7BR 3TB 4 ADAMS ST BRGY SN ANTONIO NR MUNOZ MRKT 0918-9095514

ROOM & BOARD

Unit for 2 nr Ateneo 7.5T6825188

LOAN & MORTGAGE

1%R.Estate Loan 09215464088

PERSONAL LOANS 524-3197

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

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05 NISSAN 350Z P2.5M 09189414705 • 09275043864

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PARTS & ACCESSORIES

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1% Car Lending 6560140 United Tree Car Loan Corp.

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1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% EASY CARLOAN 8997759

1% Sangla ur Car 5344441

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7225647/48

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/out taking car 7262780

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FURNITURE

Moving Out Sale Furnitures 4Saturn Bel Air2 7507949/1116

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Cute Lhasa Pups PCCI 8906331

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SOLEDAD de ASPELLERA, JOSE DEL PRADO JR., JESUS DEL PRADO was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. # 30, Page # 7, Book # XII Series 2007 by Notary Public Atty. Leticia S. Mariano de Guia of Parañaque City.
(PDI-Sept.30, Oct. 7 & 14,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SOLEDAD de ASPELLERA, JOSE DEL PRADO JR., JESUS DEL PRADO was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. # 130, Page # 27, Book # XI Series 2007 by Notary Public Atty. Leticia S. Mariano de Guia of Parañaque City.
(PDI-Sept.30, Oct. 7 & 14,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SOLEDAD de ASPELLERA, JOSE DEL PRADO JR., JESUS DEL PRADO was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. # 323, Page # 66, Book # VI Series 2007 by Notary Public Atty. Leticia S. Mariano de Guia of Parañaque City.
(PDI-Sept.30, Oct. 7 & 14,2007)

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT THE SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF PERFECTO VALENZUELA WAS EXECUTED BEFORE NOT. PUB ANTOLIN OLIVA ON SEPT 20 2007 PER DOC NO 303 BOOK NO 4 PAGE NO 19 SERIES OF 2007
(PDI-Sept. 30, Oct. 7, 14, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SPS EDUARDO R. PEÑALOZA & CARMEN P. PEÑALOZA was extrajudicially settled By the heirs as Per Doc # 462 Page#94 Book# V Series of 2007 By Notary Public
Atty. RODERICK I. URREA of San Pablo City
(PDI-Sept 16,23 &30'07)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MA. DOLORES C. IDEA was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. No. 2; Page No. 1; Book No. 1; Series of 2007 by Notary Public Atty. Angela C. Ylagan of Makati City
(PDI-Sept.30,Oct.7&14,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late NORMA Y. BUSTAMANTE was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc No. 347; Page No. 71; Book No. 1; Series of 2007 by Notary Public Atty. Frederick C. Apsay of San Jose Bulacan
(PDI - September 23, 30 & October 7, 2007)

AUCTION SALE

MARA PAWNSHOP BR of 2230 M. Roxas St. Sta Ana Manila Auction Sale on OCT 13, 2007, SAT at 2:30 in the afternoon. Respectively, MAY. 13- JUN. 13, 2007 SONS of J LANUZA, Auctioneer.
(PDI - SEPT. 30, 2007)

MARA PAWNSHOP I, III, IV and Comembo Br. of Makati City. AUCTION SALE on OCT 13, 2007 SAT. at 10:30, 12:30, and 1:30 and 8:30 in the morning and on the afternoon, Respectively MAY. 13 - JUN.13 2007.Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer (PDI - SEPT. 30, 2007)

MUNOZ-BRIONES PAWNSHOP
Auction-October 10, 2007
All unredeemed articles from May 1-31, 2007
354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM
Dela Rosa Makati 10AM
VZamora-Auctioneer

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that BPI Managers check no. 0005040 in the amount of P312,500.00 was issued in the name of DANIEL CRUZ by BPI Family Bank,Pasig Branch was declared lost.If found call 09185726506-Daniel
(PDI-Sept. 30,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the EEI Corp. Sales Invoice Nos. 10550, 10551, 10554, 10580, 10583, 10676, 10685, 10687, 10690, 10721, 10746 & 10747 issued to Marefe Jardinel last 2002 were declared lost.
(PDI-Sept. 16, 23 & 30, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the Stock Cert 44835 MER-B Shares 10,300; - AEV Shares 20,000; 37061 MER-A Shares 10; under the Name of GONZALO D. ROQUE JR. & Cert 020754 APM-B Shares 20,000,000 under the Name of MATEMARA, INC. Are lost if no contest is received new certificates will be issued.
(PDI- Sept. 23, 30, & Oct. 7, 2007)

Notice is hereby given the lost of Equitable PCIB Stock Certificate Nos. 22969, 22970, 27642 with total of 345 shares issued to Anna Francisco T. Castaneda. If no contest received new certificate will be issued. (PDI - Sept. 30, Oct. 7 & 14, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that INDUSTRIAL REALTIES, INC. Stock Certificate#13-A issued in the name of MANUEL G. MONTECILLO dated March 28,1995 covering 48,000 shares has been reported lost by Mr. Manuel G. Montecillo If no contest is received, the Corp. will issue a new stock cert.in his name as provided by law.(PDI-9/23,30,10/7,2007)

Notice of loss. Heritage Memorial Park Certificates Nos. 113968 and 113969 (w/ Lot Nos. 04L10367 and 04L10369) issued to ROLANDO P. ORENSE. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI- Sept. 23,30&Oct. 7, 2007)

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BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
(For Infrastructure)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) through its Bids and Awards Committee – Infrastructure (BAC-Infrastructure), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder projects:

Ref. No.	Description	Location	Approved Budget (P)	Project Duration (CD)	Bidding Fee (P)
GROUP 1					
UPLB-I-04-07	Rehabilitation of Various IPB Buildings and Facilities	IPB Compd., UPLB	11,000,000	180	6,000
UPLB-I-05-07	Rehabilitation of Various CEAT Buildings and Facilities	UPLB	2,600,000	120	3,500
UPLB-I-06-07	Rehabilitation of CHE Buildings and Facilities	UPLB	3,000,000	180	3,500
UPLB-I-07-07	Rehabilitation of Graduate School Buildings	IH Complex, UPLB	1,000,000	90	2,500
UPLB-I-08-07	Rehabilitation of SESAM Buildings	UPLB	500,000	60	2,000
GROUP 2					
UPLB-I-09-07	Rehabilitation of Various IPB Buildings and Facilities (Phase II)	IPB Compd., UPLB	7,500,000	150	4,500
UPLB-I-10-07	Rehabilitation of Various CAS Buildings and Facilities	UPLB	11,125,000	180	6,000
UPLB-I-11-07	Rehabilitation of CVM Buildings and Facilities	UPLB	600,000	60	2,500
UPLB-I-12-07	Rehabilitation of CEM Buildings	UPLB	1,000,000	60	2,500
UPLB-I-13-07	Rehabilitation of CDC Buildings and Facilities	UPLB	1,250,000	60	3,000
UPLB-I-14-07	Rehabilitation of Main Library, 3rd Floor	UPLB	15,000,000	180	7,000
GROUP 3					
UPLB-I-15-07	Rehabilitation of CFNR Buildings and Facilities	UPLB	3,000,000	90	3,500
UPLB-I-16-07	Rehabilitation of CPAf Buildings	UPLB	500,000	60	2,000
UPLB-I-17-07	Rehabilitation of Central Administration Buildings	UPLB	1,500,000	60	3,000
UPLB-I-18-07	Rehabilitation of Dormitories and SU Buildings	UPLB	8,000,000	180	4,500
UPLB-I-19-07	Rehabilitation of Biotech Buildings	UPLB	1,325,000	90	3,000
UPLB-I-20-07	Rehabilitation of Various CA Buildings	UPLB	3,500,000	90	3,500
UPLB-I-21-07	Rehabilitation of Buildings under OVCCA	UPLB	5,200,000	120	4,000

Prospective bidders should process a valid PCAB license applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (as listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the implementation of the contract. The BAC-Infrastructure will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the eligibility check/screening as well as the preliminary examination of bids. The BAC-Infrastructure will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to eligibility check, bid security, performance security, pre-bid conference, evaluation of bids, post-qualification, and award of contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation-A (IRR-A)

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

Particulars	Date/Time			Place
	GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	
1. Submission of Letter of Intent of Prospective Bidders and Application for Eligibility 2. Issuance of Eligibility Documents	Oct1 - 12, 2007 8:00AM - 5:00PM	Oct 8 - 19, 2007 8:00AM - 5:00PM	Oct 15 - 29, 2007 8:00AM – 5:00PM	BAC-Secretariat Office, IH Complex UPLB
3. Submission of Eligibility Requirements	On or Before Oct 12, 2007 8:30 AM	On or Before Oct 19, 2007 8:30 AM	On or Before Oct 29, 2007 8:30 AM	BAC-Secretariat Office, IH Complex UPLB
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	Oct 12, 2007	Oct 19, 2007	Oct 30, 2007	
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct 15 – 18, 2007 8:00AM – 5:00PM	Oct 22 – 25, 2007 8:00AM – 5:00PM	Nov 5 - 8, 2007 8:00AM – 5:00PM	BAC-Secretariat Office, IH Complex, UPLB
6. Site Inspection	Oct 15, 2007 8:30 AM	Oct 26, 2007 8:30 AM	Nov 5, 2007 8:30 AM	Meeting Place: BAC-Secretariat Office, IH Complex UPLB
7. Pre-Bid Conference	Oct 19, 2007 10:30 AM	Oct 26, 2007 10:30 AM	Nov 9, 2007 10:30 AM	BAC-Secretariat Office, IH Complex, UPLB
8. Submission/Opening of Bids	Oct 29, 2007 9:00 AM	Nov 5, 2007 9:00 AM	Nov 21, 2007 9:00 AM	BAC-Secretariat Office, IH Complex, UPLB

The BAC-Secretariat will issue to prospective bidders eligibility forms upon submission of letter of intent. Prospective bidders shall be notified of the results of the eligibility check through fax.

The bidding documents shall be issued only to the bidders declared by the BAC-Infrastructure to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee to the UPLB Cashier's Office.

The UPLB assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids

Inquiries may be forwarded to Engr. Alexis C. del Rosario, Chair, BAC-Secretariat at telephone nos. (49) 536-8419 or 536-8420.

ARSENIO N. RESURRECCION
Chair, BAC

(PDI–Sept. 30, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that **MR. EARL O. ESPINOSA** is no longer connected with AMON MARKETING CORPORATION. He was terminated effective last June 29, 2007.

Any transaction made with him will not be entertained by the company.

(PDI--Sept. 30, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that **MS. THERESA M. VILLARINO** is no longer connected with AMON MARKETING CORPORATION. She was terminated effective last August 6, 2007.

Any transaction made with her will not be entertained by the company.

(PDI--Sept. 30, 2007)

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RTW CONSIGN Infant Kid Teen Adult wear09178830002

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Vacant Item
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Experienced M/F Fashion Designer Tailor ,Seamstress Wanted 09212501855

Gran Tierra Estates and Development Corp. needs GEN CONTRACTOR for 53has Farm-lot Subd. Dev't Land Devt & Vertical Tel. No. 439-6396 / 437-4344

MEDTECH XRAY TECH M/F 8256486 8255641

Mktg Asst M 18-35 YO w/ experience Call 8424724

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Urgent STRUCTURAL ENGR submit Resume 5F Prudentialife Bldg 843 Pasay Rd Makati

Wanted Maintenance Truck Supervisor Contact - Ana Tel # 8070585 8072229

WANTED THERAPIST CALL 910-5410

CAREGIVER • 302-6893

FEMALE

HOUSE MANAGER
For Forbes Park Resident
30-45 y/o Female
09178348790/7505346
Malen

WANTED FEM Lcnsd Dentist; 24-28 yrs old, single. Call Dr. Elena Gravador at 7768739 /5338286/0917-839775

MALE/FEMALE

ACCTNG. STAFF IF NEAR QC 8752690/09273401979

W/XPERIENCE COMP. ARTIST 4T/S DSIGN HI-PAY 3631406

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 85-07
Series of 2007

DOLE ADJUSTMENT MEASURES PROGRAM FOR THE PREVENTION OF JOB LOSSES AND ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED WORKERS

In the interest of the service and pursuant to the 2004 Social Accord for Industrial Peace and Stability, the DOLE-AMP's coverage and package of interventions is hereby expanded to include addressing the demand to increase the employability of Filipino workers, particularly in key employment generators (KEGs) and assisting companies, particularly the distressed, towards responsible workforce management and/or restructuring.

For this purpose, the following guidelines are adopted to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the program.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The DOLE-AMP is a safety net program that provides a package of assistance and other forms of interventions as a means of helping individuals/workers and companies in coping with economic and social disruptions.

The DOLE-AMP services are classified into three (3) major components and interventions, namely:

a) Direct Services to be Provided by the DOLE-QRT
  a.1 Establishing an Early Warning Network Monitoring System
  a.2 Advocacy and Assistance Mechanism
b) DOLE Services that can be Tapped by Proponents
  b.1 Facilitation of Overseas Employment
  b.2 Facilitation of Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development
  b.3 Facilitation of Employability Enhancement of Workers in Key Employment Generators (KEGs)
  b.3 Facilitation of Labor-Management Education
  b.4 Facilitation of Responsible Workforce Restructuring
c) DOLE Institutional Capability Building

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE:

The expanded DOLE-AMP is aimed at mobilizing, augmenting and complementing the efforts, as well as building capacities and capabilities of covered workers, companies and communities in attending to displacement.

It must be emphasized that as a safety net program, the DOLE-AMP shall give priority to interventions and initiatives that would enhance the competitiveness and employability of workers and assist companies, particularly the distressed ones in adopting socially responsible workforce restructuring policies and positive workforce adjustment measures geared at preventing and/or minimizing job losses.

PROGRAM COVERAGE

The program shall be implemented nationwide and shall cover any or a combination of the following:

1. Threatened or displaced workers due to the following economic reasons:
    - Rightsizing;
    - Redundancy;
    - Import competition;
    - Introduction of technological change and labor-saving devices; and
    - Other analogous causes directly or indirectly caused by trade liberalization.
2. At risk companies, particularly those who desire to implement responsible workforce restructuring; and
3. Communities with large-scale displacement of the local workforce.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS AND INTERVENTIONS

Component I: Direct Services to be Provided by the DOLE-QRT

Shall make available services that will assist workers who are about to lose or have lost their jobs to help them cope with the social and economic disruptions, as well as assist companies towards socially responsible workforce restructuring through the reconstitution and/or strengthening of the ***Quick Response Team*** (QRT) mechanism, both at the national and regional levels.

The *Quick Response Team* shall serve as the Workers Action Group within DOLE that will provide the immediate assistance as may be warranted.

Initiatives under this program component include:

a) Establishment of an "Early Warning Network Monitoring System,"

Shall provide the early warning indicator at the onset of socio-economic disruption/s through the creation of a "functional network" with partners, companies/enterprises and community leaders to be able to:

i) Obtain accurate and up-to-date information on companies/ enterprises;

ii) Use all available data/information and contacts to spot troubled companies/enterprises; and

iii) Monitor developments in spotted companies/enterprises to establish the appropriate action to mobilize.

b) Advocacy and Assistance Mechanism

Shall immediately activate, based on report and action required generated from the early warning network monitoring system, the appropriate advocacy initiatives and on-site assistance to save jobs and/or facilitate employment/re-employment, whenever possible, through the following:

b.1 Legal Assistance

i) Remedies pertaining to preventive mediation, conciliation-mediation, med-arbitration, voluntary and compulsory arbitration under the law;
ii) Responses outlined for various levels of alertness under the Special Action Group for Industrial Peace (SAGIP); and
iii) Assistance in claiming unpaid salaries and benefits and other money claims.

b.2 Job Search Assistance Services

- On-Site Assistance

i) Registration and needs assessment;
ii) Profiling of workers to determine the nature and extent of assistance to be provided; and
iii) Employment guidance and counseling.

- Local Employment Facilitation

Shall provide access to available job opportunities suitable to the skills and qualifications of the displaced workers through job matching, referral and placement services.

Component II: DOLE Services that can be tapped by Proponents

Shall extend the necessary technical and/or financial assistance to qualified proponents through the following interventions:

Workers' Level

a) Facilitation of Overseas Employment

Shall provide financial assistance to displaced workers wishing to work overseas to defray expenses for placement fee equivalent to one (1) month salary and miscellaneous expenses in the amount of five thousand pesos (P5,000.00).

This component shall be made available for prospective OFWs with valid employment contracts only and shall be strictly limited to the unskilled category.

b) *Facilitation of Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development*

Shall provide assistance to groups of displaced workers who wish to engage in livelihood/self-employment projects through the following:

i) Training-cum-Production

Combining the production aspect with entrepreneurship development training whereby trainees realize a tangible product, which becomes the anchor of a future self-employment type of business

ii) Enterprise/Small Business Development

Extending appropriate assistance or support services towards the establishment of viable enterprises/small businesses through the provision of capital assistance, common facility services, marketing support and training grants.

c) *Facilitation of Employability Enhancement of Workers in Key Employment Generators (KEGs) for Global Competitiveness*

Shall make available education and training and/or re-training services to equip workers with the necessary skills and/or upgrade existing skills to make them more competitive in the labor market thereby enhancing their employability.

Initiatives under this program component include:

a) ***Customized Training Programs***

Shall provide training programs for a higher qualification (specialized) in the previously practiced occupation that are individual specific and designed to suit the specific needs of affected workers, as well as meet the requirements of the labor market demand for a specific skill.

b) ***Intensive Skills Development and Enhancement***

Shall provide training programs for workers who wish for a complete reorientation in a new field.

Training programs offered by TESDA shall be tapped for this initiative. For other courses not offered by TESDA, workers can attend courses at established training institutions.

Company/Enterprise Level

a) Facilitation of Labor-Management Education

Shall provide labor, human relations and productivity seminars that shall inculcate observance of labor laws, harmonize work relations and provide tools for increased productivity and competitiveness.

b) Facilitation of Responsible Workforce Restructuring

Shall provide assistance to at risk/distressed companies/firms in the form of training and learning sessions on:

- developing an ***internal adjustment plan*** that will provide alternatives/options to dismissals/lay-offs such as, but not limited to the following:
    - o training linked to periods of workforce redundancies
    - o leave schemes
    - o working time/work organization changes
    - o short-time work
    - o temporary lay-offs
- developing a ***displacement plan***, in cases that displacement is inevitable, which will provide strategies and options for workers in coping with life after displacement such as, but not limited to the following, depending on the capability of the:
    - o conversion training measures
    - o enterprise creation
    - o early retirement
    - o financial incentives

Component III: DOLE Institutional Capability Building

Shall provide continuing education and capability building and upgrading to program implementers and partners, i.e., DOLE, PESO, RCC and the Tripartite Bodies, which are directly involved in policy making and managing and implementing DOLE-AMP program interventions.

Priority under this component are training programs in the areas of:

- Management of Large Scale Displacement
- Development and Management of Appropriate Program Responses/ Measures to Address Displacement
- Employment Counseling
- Career Guidance
- Project Development and Management
- Business Counseling
- Networking and Resource Mobilization

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

A. Central Office

Program Management Team

A Program Management Team (PMT), to be chaired by the Undersecretary for Labor Relations and composed of the following as members:

1. Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR)
2. Bureau of Rural Workers (BRW)
3. Bureau of Local Employment (BLE)
4. National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB)
5. Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)
6. Finance and Management Service (FMS)
7. Planning Service (PS)

The PMT shall serve as the oversight body responsible for the DOLE-AMP and specifically, it shall:

1. Formulate policies and guidelines pertaining to the improved implementation of the project;
2. Evaluate and approve project proposals costing more than P200,000.00 but less than 1 M; and
3. Evaluate and recommend to the Secretary the approval of project proposals costing P1 million and above.

Program Secretariat

The Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR), under the direct supervision of the Undersecretary for Labor Relations, shall be the Program Secretariat for the DOLE-AMP. As such, it shall oversee the effective and efficient implementation of the program and administer the fund for the purpose, in coordination with the Finance and Management Service (FMS).

Specifically, the BLR shall be responsible for the following:

1) Provide the necessary technical and administrative support services to the PMT to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of the project;
2) Initially screen and evaluate project proposals, including but not limited to:
    - Checking and ensuring the completeness of documentary requirements;
    - Preparing project briefs and other pertinent documents for the DOLE-AMP PMT; and
    - Farming out project proposals to concerned agencies for evaluation.
3) Conduct monitoring of industry closures and retrenchments due to the adverse effects of socio-economic disruptions;
4) Conduct monitoring, evaluation and analysis of the status of the implementation of all projects funded out of the DOLE-AMP;
5) Oversee the planning and implementation of Component III, which is the DOLE Institution Capacity Building;
6) Submission of quarterly reports, including status of funds, to the Undersecretary for Labor Relations;
7) Set up adequate internal monitoring and control mechanism at all levels of operation of the program;
8) Develop and maintain a database of all DOLE-AMP project documents/ records; and
9) Conduct spot audits.

B. Regional Office

At the regional level, the Regional Offices' Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) or Regional Program Management Team (RPMT), with the RD as Chairperson shall:

1. Clear all project proposals emanating from areas within their jurisdiction;
2. Evaluate and deliberate on project proposals submitted to the region;
3. Approve project proposals to be funded out of the emergency bridging fund and recommend to the PMT, thru the BLR, the approval of project proposals with project cost of P200,000.00 and above;
4. Ensure completeness, as well as validity of claims and ascertain authenticity and completeness of documents submitted by the proponent;
5. Monitor and evaluate project implementation at the regional level; and
6. Recommend policies to the PMT to further improve the program.

The ***Technical Services and Support Division (TSSD) / Labor Relations Division (LRD)/ Workers Amelioration and Welfare Division (WAWD)***, to be assisted by the Planning Officer, shall act as the *Regional Technical Working Group* (RTWG) for the region, with the following tasks and responsibilities:

1. Receive project proposals duly evaluated by Field Offices (FOs) and check/validate accreditation requirements and prepares brief reports thereof;
2. Undertake evaluation of project proposals and recommend appropriate action to the RPMT;
3. Coordinate meetings of the RCC/RPMT and prepare required documents;
4. Coordinate with the proponent thru the FOs for proposed revisions/ additional requirements, as may be necessary;
5. Provide technical assistance to the FOs/project partners/implementers that would include networking for the conduct of entrepreneurship development training and other appropriate organizational and project management training as part of developmental interventions; and
6. Monitor, inspect and validate project implementation and prepare reports of project progress and accomplishment.

PROGRAM MECHANICS

A. For Component I: ***Direct Services to be Provided by the DOLE-QRT***

All Regional Offices shall be provided with an "***Emergency Bridging Fund***" of up to a maximum of P200,000.00 for mobilization, coordination and firming up of activities/initiatives to be undertaken at the onset of displacement. The bridging fund allocation per region shall be pro-rated using actual displacement figures.

For purposes of coordination and control, expenditures to be financed by the emergency bridging fund shall be covered by a project proposal duly approved by the RCC/RPMT.

B. For Component II: ***DOLE Services that can be Tapped by Proponents***

b.1 Workers' Level

Documentary Requirements

1) Project Proposal/Feasibility Study (for entrepreneurship development and training assistance)
2) POEA approved job contracts (for partner recruitment agency)
3) Endorsement of DOLE Regional Director
4) Certification of Displacement
    - Establishment, if still existing, for workers from the formal sector

      (In case business establishment is already shut down, the DOLE Regional Director, in cases of reported closure, retrenchment, redundancy, rightsizing, or analogous causes.)
4) Valid employment contracts (for those opting for overseas employment)

Project Approval

1. Applicants/proponents shall submit the required documentary requirements to the concerned DOLE Regional Office (RO)/Field Office (FO) for evaluation/recommendation and endorsement to the CO.
2. Upon approval of the project proposal, the appropriate Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or contract between DOLE and the proponent shall be executed accordingly. All MOAs or contracts shall include a Certificate of Funds Availability by the Chief Accountant concerned duly approved by the RD/Undersecretary for Labor Relations/Secretary, as the case may be.
3. The approving authority for projects shall be as follows:

Amount	**Official**
Below P200,000.00	RCC/RPMT
P200,000.00 and above but below P1M	DOLE Undersecretary for Labor Relations, upon endorsement of the DOLE-AMP Program Management Team
P1M and above	Secretary of Labor and Employment, upon recommendation of the DOLE-AMP Program Management Team and duly noted by the Undersecretary

b.2 Company/Firm Level

Companies/firms shall submit the following to the respective Regional Office:

- letter of intent to participate
- plan of action, including a company/firm level implementation plan

C. For Component III

The BLR shall:

- Develop and implement a training and development plan to develop/ enhance the DOLE and program partners' capability in handling displacement
- Conduct continuing review and upgrading of the Labor Relations. Human Relations and Productivity Module

PROGRAM FUNDS

Approved projects shall be funded under the budget allocation for Prevention of Job Losses and Assistance to Displaced Workers, which is managed by the DOLE-Central Office (CO).

The CO shall provide funding for the administrative requirements of the ROs for the implementation and monitoring of the AMP.

PROGRAM MONITORING AND REPORTING

Project Profile

All Regional Offices implementing DOLE-AMP Projects shall prepare and submit to the DOLE-AMP Secretariat (BLR) a project profile for each DOLE-AMP project/intervention implemented in their respective regions, using the following format:

DOLE-AMP PROJECT PROFILE	
DOLE-Regional Office No.	
DOLE-AMP Component:	Indicate which component and intervention
Proponent:	Name: Contact Person: Contact Number:
Location:	
Staff:	RO personnel directly involved with the implementation and monitoring of the project
Description:	Give a brief description of the project, including major activities
Duration:	Project Start : Completion Date :
Cost:	
Objectives:	

Quarterly Progress Report (for Component II.b only)

1. At the end of each quarter, the Regional project managers shall submit a progress report to the DOLE-AMP Secretariat within ten (10) days after the reference period, using the following reporting format:

DOLE-AMP QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT	
Project Name:	
Progress in Current Quarter:	Describe progress/results in relation to original/ revised activities/objectives and the milestone achievements identified in the proposal/work plan.
Problems/Issues:	If activities/objectives were not met, what affected the progress of the project?
Deviations:	Give details of any change/s to activities/ objectives per the approved proposal and MOA and reasons for the changes.

2. The BLR as Program Secretariat shall be responsible for consolidating the regional reports and submitting a summary of the same to the DOLE-AMP Program Management Team.
    - *With the information contained in the quarterly progress report, regional project staff should be able to identify potential "trouble spots" needing closer supervision, and hence, immediately act on the matter; and, provide satisfactory explanations for deviations and/or variances between the targets as planned and the accomplishments as reported.*

Annual or Terminal Report

At the end of the year or at the end of project implementation, whichever is applicable, all regional project staff shall report the achievements of their respective DOLE-AMP projects/interventions using the ***quarterly progress report form***, with the addition of the following:

DOLE-AMP ANNUAL/TERMINAL REPORT	
Extent of Impact/Relevance:	State how the project was able to assist worker-beneficiaries and/or improve the lives of worker-beneficiaries
Fund Utilization	Describe usage against original activities and approved budget

PROGRAM FUND LIQUIDATION

DOLE-AMP Fund liquidation shall be in accordance with the provisions of COA Circular 96-03, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

1. If any provision of this Department Order or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid by the Courts, the remaining valid provisions of this Department Order shall not be affected.
2. This partially amends DOs 3-99, 36-02 and 7-01.
3. These Rules shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation. The Records Officer of this Department is hereby directed to file three (3) certified copies thereof with the University of the Philippines Law Center pursuant to Section 3, Chapter 2, Book VII of the Administrative Code of 1987.

(Sgd.) **ARTURO D. BRION**
Secretary

_____ September 2007

(PDI - Sept. 30, 2007)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

FINANCIAL REPORTS OF MUNICIPALITIES
REGIONS 8, 9 AND 10
Fiscal Year 2006
(in thousand pesos)

Local Government Units	Class	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses									
		Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Total Equity	Total Income	Rank		Total Expenses	Rank		Net Income (Net Loss)	Rank		% of Net Income (Net Loss) to Total Income
						1	2		1	2		1	2	
REGION 8		5,505,559	1,502,587	4,002,972	4,145,522			3,572,926			572,596			14
Biliran		247,236	104,046	143,190	223,307			199,863			23,445			10
Almeria	5	17,295	2,574	14,722	23,943	89	6	21,762	86	5	2,180	74	5	9
Biliran	5	28,726	8,895	19,831	24,288	86	5	21,321	89	7	2,968	65	4	12
Cabucgayan	5	14,447	15,833	(1,387)	25,496	81	4	24,184	69	3	1,312	91	6	5
Caibiran	5	30,946	13,763	17,183	27,812	67	2	23,178	75	4	4,634	41	2	17
Culaba	5	10,530	3,134	7,397	22,004	96	7	21,627	87	6	377	104	8	2
Kawayan	5	20,995	9,710	11,285	26,055	79	3	25,151	63	2	904	97	7	3
Maripipi	5	18,424	3,787	14,637	17,919	107	8	14,414	111	8	3,506	58	3	20
Naval	3	105,872	46,349	59,523	55,790	14	1	48,224	14	1	7,565	21	1	14
Eastern Samar		438,345	92,219	346,126	421,361			369,368			51,993			12
Arteche	5	30,920	2,537	28,383	27,624	69	6	24,748	65	6	2,876	67	10	10
Balangiga	5	43,174	26,275	16,899	27,485	70	7	22,818	78	9	4,667	40	5	17
Balangkayan	5	18,523	1,352	17,170	26,553	77	9	23,608	71	8	2,945	66	9	11
Gen. MacArthur	5	55,375	7,818	47,557	24,023	88	11	20,243	92	11	3,780	53	7	16
Guiuan	3	45,617	10,224	35,393	52,292	19	1	46,346	16	1	5,946	31	3	11
Hernani	5	13,184	3,640	9,544	18,446	104	14	18,268	100	14	178	107	14	1
Jipapad	5	10,419	1,817	8,602	26,319	78	10	18,853	97	12	7,466	22	1	28
Llorente	3	38,331	3,507	34,824	47,716	23	2	40,738	22	2	6,978	24	2	15
Maslog	5	33,955	1,731	32,224	23,724	90	12	18,329	99	13	5,395	35	4	23
Maydolong	4	40,520	3,508	37,012	39,184	33	3	35,313	31	3	3,871	50	6	10
Salcedo	5	13,026	1,519	11,507	30,643	55	4	28,847	50	4	1,796	84	12	6
San Julian	5	37,716	3,758	33,957	27,107	71	8	25,296	62	5	1,812	83	11	7
San Policarpio	5	22,448	1,951	20,496	22,336	94	13	21,625	88	10	711	100	13	3
Sulat	5	35,138	22,580	12,558	27,909	65	5	24,336	68	7	3,572	56	8	13
Leyte		3,003,669	830,194	2,173,475	1,760,870			1,469,761			291,109			17
Abuyog	1	131,603	23,491	108,112	84,899	6	4	71,137	6	4	13,762	6	4	16
Alangalang	3	95,203	37,259	57,944	49,426	22	13	40,604	23	13	8,822	14	10	18
Albuera	3	73,523	7,097	66,426	44,415	26	15	40,568	24	14	3,847	51	24	9
Babatngon	4	48,422	14,434	33,988	31,594	51	26	29,943	46	24	1,651	86	31	5
Barugo	4	80,389	14,691	65,697	38,712	35	20	32,016	36	19	6,695	28	15	17
Bato	4	53,676	29,137	24,539	43,280	27	16	38,220	26	16	5,060	38	19	12
Baybay	1	291,212	71,740	219,472	97,810	4	3	89,179	2	1	8,631	15	11	9
Burauen	2	92,111	23,721	68,390	61,939	9	6	44,855	20	11	17,084	4	3	28
Calubian	4	62,994	8,398	54,597	34,790	43	24	31,349	39	21	3,441	59	26	10
Capoocan	4	59,791	9,794	49,997	35,746	41	23	30,338	45	23	5,408	34	18	15
Carigara	3	76,522	20,120	56,402	54,477	17	10	47,779	15	8	6,699	27	14	12
Dagami	4	54,614	16,946	37,668	39,985	28	17	29,708	47	25	10,278	10	6	26
Hilongos	2	106,588	13,743	92,845	60,464	12	8	49,329	12	7	11,135	8	5	18
Hindang	5	45,115	11,512	33,603	26,573	76	32	20,624	91	35	5,950	30	16	22
Inopacan	4	44,507	9,560	34,948	30,828	54	28	26,681	57	28	4,147	46	22	13
Isabela	2	275,704	109,213	166,491	128,522	1	1	77,428	3	2	51,094	1	1	40
Jaro	3	89,833	39,529	50,304	50,703	20	11	46,082	17	9	4,621	42	20	9
Javier	4	50,796	21,345	29,451	33,390	47	25	29,498	49	26	3,892	48	23	12
Julita	5	35,458	7,816	27,642	21,807	97	37	19,943	95	37	1,863	81	30	9
Kananga	1	200,982	17,149	183,833	120,717	2	2	74,253	4	3	46,464	2	2	38
La Paz	5	53,363	16,859	36,504	26,663	75	31	23,597	72	31	3,066	63	27	11
Leyte	4	82,376	25,977	56,399	44,875	25	14	43,758	21	12	1,117	92	33	2
Mac Arthur	5	39,437	19,604	19,832	25,833	80	33	25,665	61	29	168	108	38	1
Mahaplag	5	81,281	25,912	55,369	39,968	29	18	30,986	41	22	8,982	13	9	22
Matag-ob	4	33,918	8,284	25,634	29,443	59	29	21,779	85	34	7,664	20	13	26
Matalom	5	42,223	32,606	9,617	49,619	21	12	39,578	25	15	10,041	11	7	20
Merida	4	8,898	3,063	5,835	31,157	53	27	31,464	38	20	(307)	111	39	(1)
Palo	3	94,695	39,291	55,404	61,452	10	7	57,633	7	5	3,820	52	25	6
Palompon	2	97,684	37,331	60,353	62,124	8	5	56,269	9	6	5,855	32	17	9
Pastrana	5	34,351	8,045	26,306	24,480	85	34	20,197	93	36	4,283	45	21	17
San Isidro	4	60,420	6,979	53,441	38,185	36	21	37,230	29	18	955	95	35	3
San Miguel	5	67,784	42,824	24,960	26,854	73	30	24,981	64	30	1,872	79	29	7
Sta. Fe	5	20,296	7,669	12,627	22,853	91	35	22,127	84	33	726	90	36	3
Tabango	4	106,439	16,210	90,229	35,873	40	22	27,692	55	27	8,181	17	12	23
Tabon-Tabon	5	18,562	3,914	14,648	17,661	108	38	16,563	105	38	1,098	93	34	6
Tanauan	3	99,960	11,748	88,212	55,448	15	9	46,033	18	10	9,415	12	8	17
Tolosa	5	22,129	8,443	13,686	22,737	92	36	22,450	80	32	287	105	37	1
Tunga	6	15,571	2,557	13,014	15,779	110	39	14,318	112	39	1,461	89	32	9
Villaba	4	55,241	6,184	49,057	39,788	31	19	37,906	27	17	1,882	78	28	5
Northern Samar		705,394	134,163	571,231	715,988			624,509			91,479			13
Allen	5	34,681	14,599	20,081	27,888	66	14	24,548	66	12	3,340	62	11	12
Biri	5	15,699	1,003	14,697	18,170	105	20	17,574	102	20	595	102	18	3
Bobon	5	10,187	1,870	8,318	29,112	60	11	28,046	53	9	1,066	94	16	4
Capul	5	8,326	1,305	7,021	20,600	99	18	20,000	94	17	600	101	17	3
Catarman	2	129,409	5,254	124,156	92,194	5	1	72,499	5	1	19,696	3	1	21
Catubig	4	40,030	8,994	31,036	37,295	39	6	30,594	43	8	6,701	26	6	18
Gamay	4	20,613	6,008	14,605	30,390	56	10	26,367	59	10	4,022	47	9	13
Laoang	2	72,901	11,638	61,264	61,247	11	2	48,231	13	2	13,016	7	2	21
Lapinig	5	13,182	5,743	7,439	21,450	98	17	17,903	101	19	3,547	57	10	17
Lavezares	4	15,122	5,007	10,115	33,382	48	9	26,347	60	11	7,034	23	4	21
Lope de Vega	4	24,049	1,192	22,857	34,110	44	8	32,220	33	5	1,890	77	14	6
Mapanas	5	16,861	4,448	12,413	26,995	72	15	22,135	83	16	4,861	39	7	18
Mondragon	5	48,140	10,008	38,132	39,764	32	3	32,084	35	7	7,680	19	3	19
Pambujan	4	36,220	12,555	23,666	37,380	38	5	37,453	28	3	(73)	110	21	(0)
Rosario	5	13,367	1,543	11,824	18,752	102	19	16,926	104	21	1,827	82	15	10
San Antonio	5	12,281	589	11,692	18,038	106	21	18,960	96	18	(922)	112	22	(5)
San Isidro	4	76,591	18,700	57,890	38,886	34	4	36,686	30	4	2,199	73	13	6
San Jose	5	11,594	5,992	5,603	22,657	93	16	22,506	79	14	151	109	20	1
San Roque	5	19,847	9,973	9,874	34,919	42	7	32,134	34	6	2,785	69	12	8
San Vicente	5	8,976	1,104	7,872	15,414	112	22	15,210	109	22	204	106	19	1
Silvino Lobos	5	57,934	2,797	55,137	28,951	61	12	22,231	81	15	6,720	25	5	23
Victoria	5	19,383	3,842	15,540	28,394	63	13	23,855	70	13	4,539	43	8	16
Samar		746,873	229,583	517,290	721,881			648,731			73,150			10
Almagro	5	18,780	6,759	12,022	24,795	84	15	21,168	90	16	3,627	55	6	15
Basey	2	103,882	32,904	70,979	64,102	7	2	56,282	8	2	7,820	18	3	12
Calbiga	4	33,702	4,562	29,140	47,555	24	5	31,184	40	6	16,371	5	1	34
Catbalogan	1	115,269	63,588	51,682	108,823	3	1	106,200	1	1	2,623	70	9	2
Daram	4	47,554	6,001	41,553	37,585	37	6	35,229	32	5	2,357	72	10	6
Gandara	3	79,309	22,170	57,140	53,355	18	4	49,996	11	3	3,360	61	8	6
Jiabong	5	18,754	2,506	16,249	24,205	87	16	23,407	73	13	798	98	18	3
Marabut	5	18,864	4,354	14,509	29,537	58	11	23,132	77	15	6,405	29	4	22
Matuguinao	5	28,293	10,049	18,244	26,684	74	14	23,281	74	14	3,403	60	7	13
Motiong	5	28,173	12,052	16,121	27,756	68	13	27,225	56	11	531	103	19	2
Pagsanghan	5	15,980	5,250	10,729	16,967	109	18	15,612	108	19	1,356	90	17	8
Paranas	3	68,289	7,467	60,822	56,179	13	3	45,707	19	4	10,472	9	2	19
Pinabacdao	5	29,348	6,440	22,908	28,372	64	12	26,507	58	12	1,865	80	13	7
San Jorge	4	11,363	930	10,433	31,293	52	9	29,525	48	8	1,768	85	14	6
San Jose de Buan	4	24,227	1,625	22,602	32,124	50	8	27,702	54	10	4,422	44	5	14
San Sebastian	5	24,189	16,101	8,088	14,472	113	20	15,616	107	18	(1,144)	113	20	(8)
Sta. Margarita	4	33,994	3,501	30,493	32,162	49	7	30,650	42	7	1,512	88	16	5
Sto. Niño	5	15,658	7,368	8,290	20,344	100	17	18,352	98	17	1,992	75	11	10
Talalora	5	11,095	1,465	9,630	15,427	111	19	13,438	113	20	1,989	76	12	13
Tarangnan	4	20,149	14,492	5,657	30,143	57	10	28,519	52	9	1,624	87	15	5
Southern Leyte		364,043	112,383	251,660	302,115			260,695			41,420			14
Anahawan	5	22,957	7,914	15,043	18,481	103	10	15,619	106	9	2,862	68	8	15
Hinunangan	4	42,459	3,655	38,804	39,909	30	2	31,701	37	2	8,208	16	1	21
Libagon	5	29,368	28,355	1,013	25,105	83	7	22,137	82	7	2,968	64	7	12
Macrohon	4	30,882	4,068	26,814	34,038	45	3	30,343	44	3	3,695	54	6	11
Saint Bernard	4	44,348	2,649	41,699	33,836	46	4	28,612	51	4	5,224	37	4	15
San Francisco	5	30,931	2,553	28,379	22,319	95	8	16,991	103	8	5,328	36	3	24
San Juan	5	35,580	8,307	27,274	25,391	82	6	24,467	67	5	923	96	10	4
San Ricardo	5	15,464	2,063	13,401	19,090	101	9	15,201	110	10	3,889	49	5	20
Silago	4	43,821	10,645	33,176	28,927	62	5	23,157	76	6	5,770	33	2	20
Sogod	3	68,232	42,174	26,058	55,020	16	1	52,467	10	1	2,552	71	9	5
REGION 9		3,127,624	846,929	2,280,696	2,181,276			1,944,940			236,336			11
Zamboanga Del Norte		1,293,406	352,239	941,167	1,075,448			960,206			115,242			11
Baleguian	4	63,531	17,632	45,899	43,766	22	13	40,363	22	13	3,403	25	11	8
Godod	4	36,141	15,171	20,970	29,813	42	20	27,224	42	20	2,590	28	13	9
Gutalac	3	32,792	8,751	24,042	50,049	14	6	49,964	9	4	85	43	21	0
Jose Dalman	4	23,601	5,440	18,161	30,843	40	19	32,679	33	17	(1,836)	50	25	(6)
Kalawit	4	40,893	5,966	34,927	32,145	37	17	31,643	35	18	502	41	19	2
Katipunan	3	46,852	12,816	34,036	49,720	16	8	45,926	12	5	3,794	24	10	8
La Libertad	5	22,514	5,833	16,681	18,212	51	25	17,356	51	25	856	38	17	5
Labason	3	36,876	8,667	28,209	41,726	24	14	43,561	15	7	(1,835)	49	24	(4)
Leon B. Postigo	4	30,659	13,909	16,751	38,284	31	16	36,883	25	14	1,401	33	15	4
Liloy	3	42,937	11,570	31,367	49,730	15	7	41,684	19	11	8,046	10	6	16
Manuel Roxas	3	60,565	18,645	41,920	49,165	17	9	43,008	16	8	6,157	17	8	13
Manukan	3	76,408	24,855	51,553	44,075	20	11	41,553	20	12	2,522	29	14	6
Mutia	5	23,986	14,290	9,696	20,749	50	24	20,655	49	24	94	42	20	0
Pinañ	4	52,684	28,519	24,165	29,263	43	21	26,248	43	21	3,015	27	12	10
Polanco	3	47,538	14,831	32,707	43,801	21	12	42,720	17	9	1,081	36	16	2
Rizal	5	14,320	2,783	11,537	25,575	45	22	24,800	45	23	775	39	18	3
Salug	4	67,857	10,471	57,386	47,836	19	10	35,830	27	15	12,005	6	4	25
Sergio Osmeña	2	100,789	24,331	76,458	65,013	4	2	41,987	18	10	23,026	1	1	35
Siayan	3	42,561	8,460	34,101	56,888	10	5	50,874	7	3	6,014	18	9	11
Sibuco	Uncl	91,743	3,366	88,377	64,440	6	3	51,462	5	2	12,978	5	3	20
Sibutad	5	34,377	8,915	25,461	24,420	47	23	26,131	44	22	(1,710)	48	23	(7)
Sindangan	1	108,873	21,550	87,323	89,946	1	1	79,168	1	1	10,777	7	5	12
Siocon	2	116,496	54,260	62,236	59,406	8	4	43,834	14	6	15,572	3	2	26
Sirawai	4	34,998	4,914	30,084	38,820	29	15	31,552	36	19	7,268	13	7	19
Tampilisan	4	43,416	6,294	37,122	31,761	38	18	33,102	32	16	(1,341)	47	22	(4)
Zamboanga Del Sur		764,250	198,103	566,147	514,987			451,818			63,170			12
Aurora	3	126,289	36,535	89,754	64,452	5	2	45,907	13	3	18,545	2	1	29
Dimataling	4	46,083	5,032	41,051	34,633	35	8	34,602	29	5	31	44	11	0
Dinas	4	46,533	2,826	43,707	38,390	30	7	33,430	31	7	4,960	20	6	13
Dumingag	2	44,475	13,260	31,215	51,823	11	3	53,798	4	2	(1,974)	51	13	(4)
Josefina	5	35,160	7,106	28,054	22,019	49	13	18,039	50	13	3,980	23	7	18
Lapuyan	4	55,997	23,222	32,775	42,315	23	4	35,570	28	4	6,745	16	5	16
Margosatubig	4	67,857	8,041	59,816	41,152	25	5	32,641	34	8	8,511	9	3	21
Midsalip	4	70,690	7,125	63,565	39,157	27	6	28,537	40	10	10,619	8	2	27
Molave	2	145,448	42,472	102,977	66,315	3	1	59,432	3	1	6,884	15	4	10
Pitogo	4	24,863	16,897	7,966	32,326	36	9	33,584	30	6	(1,258)	46	12	(4)
Sominot	5	18,814	3,698	15,117	25,086	46	12	24,515	46	11	572	40	10	2
Tabina	4	44,777	21,296	23,482	31,500	39	10	29,064	39	9	2,436	31	9	8
Vincenzo Sagun	5	37,263	10,594	26,669	25,820	44	11	22,700	48	12	3,120	26	8	12
Zamboanga Sibugay		1,069,968	296,587	773,381	590,841			532,917			57,924			10
Alicia	4	75,441	26,004	49,437	40,636	26	7	38,940	23	7	1,696	32	9	4
Diplahan	4	28,378	8,180	20,198	38,929	28	8	37,627	24	8	1,303	35	11	3
Imelda	4	37,079	13,378	23,701	29,952	41	12	27,449	41	12	2,503	30	8	8
Ipil	1	346,041	54,046	291,995	80,122	2	1	72,282	2	1	7,840	11	2	10
Kabasalan	3	126,182	43,767	82,415	60,838	7	2	46,959	11	5	13,878	4	1	23
Mabuhay	4	40,596	8,935	31,661	35,683	33	10	30,141	37	10	5,541	19	5	16
Olutanga	4	52,622	5,921	46,701	34,968	34	11	30,058	38	11	4,910	21	6	14
Payao	4	39,315	15,473	23,842	37,569	32	9	36,536	26	9	1,032	37	12	3
Roseller T. Lim	3	56,550	35,379	21,171	50,138	13	5	50,806	8	3	(668)	45	13	(1)
Siay	3	76,011	19,470	56,541	48,741	18	6	41,256	21	6	7,485	12	3	15
Talusan	5	44,609	16,391	28,218	24,130	48	13	22,795	47	13	1,334	34	10	6
Titay	3	92,297	39,517	52,781	51,348	12	4	47,165	10	4	4,183	22	7	8
Tungawan	3	54,845	10,125	44,720	57,790	9	3	50,902	6	2	6,887	14	4	12
REGION 10		5,214,007	1,464,713	3,749,294	3,588,093			3,198,726			389,367			11
Bukidnon		2,442,753	602,117	1,840,636	1,371,173			1,151,236			219,937			16
Baungon	3	75,289	33,181	42,108	54,558	22	13	47,335	22	13	7,223	21	14	13
Cabanglasan	3	68,385	24,865	43,521	43,745	30	17	37,569	33	17	6,176	25	16	14
Damulog	4	43,513	9,348	34,165	37,126	42	20	34,911	38	20	2,215	48	19	6
Dangcagan	5	43,560	6,666	36,894	46,929	27	16	38,556	30	16	8,372	16	12	18
Don Carlos	2	100,281	24,380	75,901	70,598	8	8	56,779	14	9	13,819	6	5	20
Impasug-ong	1	97,154	6,397	90,758	86,752	5	5	76,494	4	4	10,259	12	10	12
Kadingilan	4	109,666	26,786	82,880	43,406	31	18	35,323	37	19	8,083	18	13	19
Kalilangan	3	110,199	62,430	47,768	54,453	23	14	43,572	26	14	10,880	10	9	20
Kibawe	3	102,056	19,815	82,241	54,754	21	12	49,059	19	11	5,696	26	17	10
Kitaotao	2	97,432	13,162	84,270	67,178	11	10	63,542	7	7	3,637	32	18	5
Lantapan	3	164,390	53,387	111,003	64,637	14	11	48,367	21	12	16,270	5	4	25
Libona	3	129,079	23,074	106,005	73,459	6	6	53,297	15	10	20,161	3	3	27
Malitbog	3	148,362	10,521	137,842	53,454	24	15	39,745	28	15	13,708	7	6	26
Manolo Fortich	1	220,942	90,190	130,752	101,215	3	3	90,100	3	3	11,114	9	8	11
Maramag	1	171,620	40,726	130,894	105,340	2	2	92,220	2	2	13,120	8	7	12
Pangantucan	2	158,940	56,493	102,447	70,536	9	9	63,811	6	6	6,725	23	15	10
Quezon	1	271,003	47,255	223,748	144,092	1	1	112,850	1	1	31,242	1	1	22
San Fernando	2	142,392	14,018	128,374	71,296	7	7	61,482	9	8	9,813	13	11	14
Sumilao	4	32,189	6,572	25,616	37,787	39	19	36,992	34	18	795	67	20	2
Talakag	1	156,301	32,852	123,449	89,858	4	4	69,230	5	5	20,628	2	2	23
Camiguin		128,574	43,182	85,392	129,476			122,409			7,067			5
Catarman	5	29,071	6,801	22,271	25,168	67	2	24,181	66	2	986	63	4	4
Guinsiliban	5	6,948	2,650	4,297	15,330	85	5	14,321	84	5	1,009	62	3	7
Mahinog	5	33,600	6,869	26,731	22,966	72	3	20,551	73	3	2,414	45	1	11
Mambajao	3	47,472	23,527	23,944	46,912	28	1	44,521	25	1	2,391	47	2	5
Sagay	5	11,483	3,335	8,148	19,101	80	4	18,835	76	4	266	76	5	1
Lanao Del Norte		795,007	259,439	535,567	727,308			685,134			42,174			6
Bacolod	5	16,379	4,960	11,420	28,597	58	12	28,099	53	11	497	71	15	2
Balo-i	4	79,543	1,969	77,574	45,429	29	4	42,863	27	4	2,565	42	9	6
Baroy	4	27,836	4,292	23,543	29,022	56	11	25,819	61	14	3,203	37	5	11
Kapatagan	3	82,962	38,303	44,659	55,812	20	3	45,149	24	3	10,663	11	1	19
Kauswagan	5	30,267	15,943	14,324	26,344	64	15	23,405	67	17	2,939	39	7	11
Kolambugan	4	46,960	13,082	33,878	36,600	43	7	34,781	40	6	1,819	55	10	5
Lala	3	60,442	29,496	30,946	61,195	16	1	57,415	12	1	3,781	31	2	6
Linamon	5	38,350	4,182	34,168	27,997	59	13	26,985	58	12	1,011	61	12	4
Maigo	5	45,936	38,856	7,080	32,131	50	9	32,660	47	9	(529)	81	21	(2)
Matungao	5	5,007	116	4,891	23,311	71	19	22,990	69	18	321	75	17	1
Munai	5	51,119	11,676	39,444	30,119	55	10	29,642	51	10	477	72	16	2
Nunungan	4	48,494	2,866	45,628	38,017	37	6	34,552	41	7	3,464	34	3	9
Pantao-Ragat	5	23,651	19,775	3,876	26,703	63	14	26,580	59	13	123	78	18	0
Pantar	5	21,337	13,975	7,362	25,258	66	17	25,157	63	15	101	79	19	0
Poona-Piagapo	5	11,819	501	11,318	33,042	47	8	33,060	44	8	(18)	80	20	(0)
R. Magsaysay	5	16,211	8,527	7,684	25,614	65	16	24,968	64	16	645	70	14	3
Salvador	5	21,854	838	21,016	24,556	68	18	21,581	71	20	2,975	38	6	12
Sapad	5	23,417	16,786	6,632	20,931	75	21	21,643	70	19	(712)	84	22	(3)
S.N. Dimaporo	4	25,616	4,036	21,581	40,378	33	5	38,620	29	5	1,757	56	11	4
Tagoloan	5	19,057	2,498	16,559	18,814	81	22	17,913	80	22	901	66	13	5
Tangkal	5	40,276	22,661	17,615	21,189	74	20	18,464	78	21	2,725	40	8	13
Tubod	3	58,472	4,103	54,369	56,250	19	2	52,787	16	2	3,463	35	4	6
Misamis Occidental		680,559	233,427	447,132	428,941			389,358			39,584			9
Aloran	4	53,024	26,157	26,867	34,004	45	5	33,531	43	4	473	73	12	1
Baliangao	5	23,859	5,051	18,808	24,212	69	11	23,298	68	11	914	64	11	4
Bonifacio	4	59,538	39,689	19,849	37,360	40	4	32,708	46	5	4,652	28	3	12
Calamba	4	65,328	37,757	27,571	32,143	49	7	31,981	48	6	162	77	13	1
Clarin	4	43,469	15,452	28,017	37,863	38	3	38,545	31	1	(682)	83	14	(2)
Concepcion		30,219	9,592	20,627	16,589	83	14	12,745	85	14	3,844	30	4	23
Don Victoriano	4	48,728	357	48,371	30,218	54	9	27,649	55	9	2,569	41	6	9
Jimenez	4	53,169	11,163	42,006	40,014	34	2	38,084	32	2	1,930	53	9	5
Lopez Jaena	4	59,403	15,020	44,383	30,908	53	8	27,697	54	8	3,211	36	5	10
Panaon	5	76,734	21,236	55,498	20,144	78	13	18,055	79	12	2,089	49	7	10
Plaridel	4	60,401	23,713	36,688	42,236	32	1	33,728	42	3	8,508	15	2	20
Sapang Dalaga	5	46,222	16,215	30,007	24,107	70	12	15,383	82	13	8,723	14	1	36
Sinacaban	5	31,044	5,592	25,452	26,766	62	10	25,599	62	10	1,167	60	10	4
Tudela	4	29,421	6,432	22,989	32,378	48	6	30,355	49	7	2,023	51	8	6
Misamis Oriental		1,167,114	326,547	840,567	931,194			850,588			80,606			9
Alubijid	4	34,169	5,336	28,833	33,626	46	13	32,966	45	12	660	69	21	2
Balingasag	3	69,259	14,610	54,649	56,528	18	6	50,293	18	6	6,236	24	6	11
Balingoan	5	21,296	4,693	16,603	20,662	76	20	19,152	74	20	1,510	59	18	7
Binuangan	6	13,607	3,126	10,481	16,301	84	24	14,791	83	24	1,510	58	17	9
Claveria	2	98,732	26,420	72,312	68,596	10	1	60,919	10	2	7,677	20	4	11
El Salvador	3	36,563	28,831	7,731	50,789	26	8	57,312	13	4	(6,523)	85	24	(13)
Gitagum	5	42,801	3,288	39,512	22,507	73	19	20,934	72	19	1,573	57	16	7
Initao	4	50,693	16,261	34,433	39,297	35	9	36,770	35	9	2,527	44	11	6
Jasaan	3	64,445	24,586	39,859	58,557	17	5	51,708	17	5	6,849	22	5	12
Kinoguitan	5	16,456	3,638	12,818	20,636	77	21	18,604	77	22	2,032	50	13	10
Lagonglong	5	46,515	23,706	22,809	27,059	61	18	24,529	65	18	2,531	43	10	9
Laguindingan	5	15,018	4,568	10,450	27,835	60	17	27,041	57	16	794	68	20	3
Libertad	5	14,081	1,920	12,161	19,961	79	22	19,060	75	21	902	65	19	5
Lugait	4	139,349	25,059	114,290	65,730	13	3	48,958	20	7	16,772	4	1	26
Magsaysay	4	45,219	3,292	41,927	34,896	44	12	35,441	36	10	(545)	82	23	(2)
Manticao	4	54,403	1,183	53,219	37,128	41	11	28,919	52	14	8,209	17	2	22
Medina	4	47,332	9,427	37,905	39,246	36	10	34,865	39	11	4,381	29	8	11
Naawan	5	51,376	16,420	34,956	31,085	52	15	27,583	56	15	3,501	33	9	11
Opol	4	96,483	40,640	55,843	53,417	25	7	45,530	23	8	7,887	19	3	15
Salay	5	39,834	14,267	25,567	28,601	57	16	26,205	60	17	2,396	46	12	8
Sugbongcogon	5	24,092	12,009	12,083	17,076	82	23	16,606	81	23	470	74	22	3
Tagoloan	3	74,438	20,103	54,336	67,022	12	2	61,588	8	1	5,434	27	7	8
Talisayan	4	26,236	2,712	23,524	31,967	51	14	29,970	50	13	1,996	52	14	6
Villanueva	4	44,718	20,454	24,264	62,671	15	4	60,842	11	3	1,829	54	15	3

Difference between totals and sum of components is due to rounding off
Rank
1-Regionwide Ranking
2-Provincewide Ranking

LGUs with unsubmitted year-end financial reports as of cut-off date of June 15, 2007

Region 8

Eastern Samar Province - Borongan, Can-Avid, Dolores, Giporlos, Lawa-an, Mercedes, Oras, Quinapondan, Taft.

Leyte Province - Dulag, Mayorga.

Northern Samar Province - Las Navas, Palapag.

Samar Province - Hinabangan, Sta. Rita, Tagapul-an, Villareal, Zumarraga.

Southern Leyte Province - Bontoc, Hinundayan, Liloan, Limasawa, Malitbog, Padre Burgos, Pintuyan, Tomas Oppus.

Region 9

Zamboanga del Sur Province - Bayog, Dumalinao, Guipos, Kumalarang, Labangan, Lakewood, Mahayag, R. Magsaysay, San Miguel, San Pablo, Tambulig, Tigbao, Tukuran.

Zamboanga Sibugay Province - Buug, Malangas and Naga

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

FINANCIAL REPORTS OF MUNICIPALITIES
REGIONS 11, 12, 13 AND ARMM
Fiscal Year 2006
(in thousand pesos)

Local Government Units	Class	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses									
		Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Total Equity	Total Income	Rank 1	Rank 2	Total Expenses	Rank 1	Rank 2	Net Income (Net Loss)	Rank 1	Rank 2	% of Net Income (Net Loss) to Total Income
REGION 11		4,199,377	1,269,194	2,930,183	2,966,234			2,699,987			266,247			9
Compostela Valley		1,281,634	313,233	968,401	844,759			764,671			80,088			9
Compostela	1	169,308	29,966	139,342	81,432	13	6	66,223	15	7	15,209	3	1	19
Laak	1	98,779	24,170	74,609	91,582	7	2	81,767	9	2	9,815	10	4	11
Mabini	3	64,380	16,665	47,715	56,460	27	9	53,410	24	9	3,050	33	9	5
Maco	1	103,379	19,497	83,882	83,353	11	4	71,362	12	5	11,992	6	2	14
Maragusan	2	69,171	12,704	56,467	69,069	15	7	63,173	17	8	5,896	18	7	9
Mawab	3	105,648	27,032	78,616	48,721	35	11	38,497	39	11	10,224	9	3	21
Monkayo	1	282,519	77,563	204,956	125,037	2	1	116,804	2	1	8,234	13	6	7
Montevista	3	53,270	12,442	40,829	49,836	34	10	48,551	32	10	1,285	39	10	3
Nabunturan	1	106,739	26,088	80,651	88,550	10	3	79,969	10	3	8,581	11	5	10
New Bataan	2	95,777	46,913	48,864	67,481	17	8	67,121	14	6	361	42	11	1
Pantukan	1	132,664	20,193	112,470	83,237	12	5	77,795	11	4	5,443	22	8	7
Davao Del Norte		782,274	191,581	590,693	519,606			487,768			31,838			6
Asuncion	2	66,637	16,660	49,976	61,278	22	5	58,934	19	4	2,344	36	6	4
Braulio E. Dujali	4	50,499	18,460	32,039	32,152	42	7	37,079	41	7	(4,927)	44	8	(15)
Carmen	2	53,352	7,741	45,611	67,533	16	3	63,625	16	3	3,907	26	3	6
Kapalong	1	237,116	42,171	194,945	105,289	5	2	101,412	4	1	3,876	28	4	4
New Corella	2	80,977	20,058	60,919	62,383	19	4	58,542	20	5	3,841	29	5	6
San Isidro	Uncl	24,144	11,593	12,551	30,598	43	8	30,290	42	8	307	43	7	1
Sto. Tomas	1	210,783	64,502	146,281	109,287	4	1	93,494	5	2	15,793	2	1	14
Talaingod	3	58,767	10,395	48,372	51,088	33	6	44,392	35	6	6,697	17	2	13
Davao Del Sur		1,248,820	421,566	827,254	848,491			761,638			86,853			10
Bansalan	2	87,122	20,294	66,828	61,643	21	4	53,337	25	6	8,306	12	3	13
Don Marcelino	3	65,753	16,108	49,645	48,626	36	11	45,522	34	10	3,104	32	11	6
Hagonoy	3	44,538	9,999	34,539	54,590	29	8	50,690	28	8	3,900	27	9	7
Jose Abad Santos	1	114,434	30,686	83,749	76,073	14	3	68,657	13	3	7,417	15	4	10
Kiblawan	2	82,805	22,004	60,802	58,905	25	6	54,330	22	5	4,575	25	8	8
Magsaysay	3	51,611	21,431	30,180	56,349	28	7	52,654	26	7	3,695	30	10	7
Malalag	3	95,828	24,741	71,087	51,840	32	10	38,756	37	12	13,085	5	2	25
Malita	1	302,407	134,674	167,733	123,647	3	1	104,133	3	1	19,514	1	1	16
Matanao	3	82,209	26,692	55,517	60,982	23	5	55,244	21	4	5,738	21	6	9
Padada	4	45,477	3,591	41,887	43,105	38	12	40,155	36	11	2,950	34	12	7
Saranggani	5	33,803	7,541	26,262	28,358	44	14	25,760	44	14	2,598	35	13	9
Sta. Cruz	1	146,090	70,915	75,175	90,698	8	2	84,813	8	2	5,885	19	5	6
Sta. Maria	3	75,777	23,000	52,777	53,722	31	9	48,864	31	9	4,857	23	7	9
Sulop	4	20,965	9,891	11,074	39,953	39	13	38,723	38	13	1,230	40	14	3
Davao Oriental		886,649	342,814	543,836	753,377			685,910			67,467			9
Baganga	1	83,509	12,231	71,278	90,607	9	3	85,874	7	3	4,733	24	7	5
Banay-Banay	2	87,744	26,302	61,441	58,690	26	7	50,666	29	7	8,024	14	4	14
Boston	4	57,703	13,313	44,390	35,079	41	11	27,894	43	11	7,185	16	5	20
Caraga	2	62,361	16,795	45,566	63,415	18	4	61,620	18	4	1,795	37	9	3
Cateel	3	33,366	6,976	26,390	53,924	30	8	50,378	30	8	3,546	31	8	7
Gov. Generoso	3	48,855	3,640	45,214	62,058	20	5	51,753	27	6	10,305	7	2	17
Lupon	1	137,998	39,800	98,198	102,486	6	2	92,214	6	2	10,272	8	3	10
Manay	2	78,607	45,485	33,122	59,247	24	6	53,484	23	5	5,762	20	6	10
Mati	1	210,624	144,785	65,839	142,582	1	1	128,841	1	1	13,741	4	1	10
San Isidro	3	42,634	14,612	28,021	46,384	37	9	45,777	33	9	607	41	11	1
Tarragona	4	43,249	18,873	24,376	38,906	40	10	37,409	40	10	1,498	38	10	4
REGION 12		4,424,980	1,073,867	3,351,113	3,330,399			2,926,827			403,572			12
North Cotabato		1,749,251	463,639	1,285,611	1,268,305			1,119,805			148,500			12
Alamada	1	145,895	32,713	113,181	79,976	17	8	63,714	22	9	16,262	7	4	20
Aleosan	4	46,337	12,155	34,183	39,671	45	17	37,638	43	17	2,033	39	15	5
Antipas	3	42,606	7,700	34,906	57,011	35	14	50,941	33	14	6,069	26	9	11
Arakan	2	78,284	33,223	45,061	71,308	25	11	59,513	27	10	11,795	12	7	17
Banisilan	2	40,700	3,753	36,947	58,501	32	13	55,175	29	11	3,326	37	14	6
Carmen	1	181,544	21,168	160,376	101,870	5	2	99,863	3	1	2,006	40	16	2
Kabacan	1	64,441	3,001	61,440	89,683	11	4	74,339	14	7	15,344	8	5	17
Libungan	3	34,110	14,724	19,386	48,185	38	16	50,067	35	16	(1,882)	45	17	(4)
Magpet	1	94,911	30,443	64,468	80,958	15	7	76,415	13	6	4,543	35	13	6
Makilala	1	193,023	87,121	105,902	81,366	14	6	76,498	12	5	4,868	30	11	6
Matalam	1	178,403	14,162	164,241	74,619	21	10	53,324	30	12	21,295	3	1	29
Midsayap	1	169,774	35,193	134,581	104,970	4	1	87,895	6	2	17,074	5	2	16
M'lang	1	130,775	44,236	86,538	93,928	9	3	77,485	11	4	16,443	6	3	18
Pigcawayan	2	71,946	14,087	57,859	65,099	27	12	53,151	31	13	11,948	11	6	18
Pikit	1	86,549	37,830	48,719	86,763	12	5	79,498	9	3	7,264	21	8	8
Pres. Roxas	2	116,954	44,132	72,822	78,247	19	9	73,568	15	8	4,679	32	12	6
Tulunan	3	73,000	27,998	45,002	56,150	36	15	50,721	34	15	5,430	28	10	10
Sarangani		767,290	109,329	657,961	561,177			503,153			58,024			10
Alabel	1	117,803	26,839	90,965	92,275	10	3	78,372	10	3	13,902	9	2	15
Glan	1	200,439	17,476	182,964	101,750	6	2	79,980	8	2	21,770	2	1	21
Kiamba	2	73,486	23,770	49,716	63,288	28	5	62,773	23	5	515	44	7	1
Maasim	3	68,262	6,913	61,349	61,817	31	6	60,401	26	6	1,416	43	6	2
Maitum	3	103,019	17,102	85,917	51,969	37	7	49,907	36	7	2,062	38	5	4
Malapatan	1	102,000	11,428	90,573	77,690	20	4	67,874	20	4	9,816	16	3	13
Malungon	1	102,281	5,802	96,478	112,388	2	1	103,846	2	1	8,542	19	4	8
South Cotabato		999,051	286,171	712,880	773,942			663,183			110,759			14
Banga	1	55,888	4,864	51,024	74,590	22	5	69,779	19	5	4,811	31	8	6
Lake Sebu	1	64,227	28,633	35,594	79,224	18	4	72,294	17	4	6,930	22	5	9
Norala	3	74,856	30,857	43,999	46,639	40	8	41,429	40	8	5,210	29	7	11
Polomolok	1	328,615	70,995	257,620	168,303	1	1	118,864	1	1	49,440	1	1	29
Sto. Niño	4	65,827	15,313	50,514	44,602	41	9	39,953	41	9	4,649	34	9	10
Surallah	1	119,985	56,562	63,422	93,985	8	3	85,137	7	3	8,848	18	4	9
Tampakan	3	73,769	24,519	49,250	58,169	33	7	48,666	38	7	9,502	17	3	16
Tantangan	4	81,356	16,484	64,872	40,240	44	10	36,390	44	10	3,851	36	10	10
T'Boli	1	59,347	16,529	42,818	98,851	7	2	88,051	5	2	10,800	14	2	11
Tupi	2	75,181	21,415	53,767	69,339	26	6	62,620	24	6	6,719	24	6	10
Sultan Kudarat		909,388	214,728	694,661	726,975			640,686			86,289			12
Bagumbayan	1	131,270	6,617	124,653	80,362	16	3	62,521	25	5	17,842	4	1	22
Columbio	2	101,374	10,942	90,432	73,051	23	4	65,719	21	4	7,332	20	5	10
Esperanza	2	77,465	2,974	74,491	61,960	30	7	49,352	37	8	12,608	10	2	20
Isulan	1	124,071	38,390	85,681	105,127	3	1	94,022	4	1	11,105	13	3	11
Kalamansig	1	48,388	15,515	32,873	72,784	24	5	71,123	18	3	1,661	42	11	2
Lambayong	3	85,598	47,130	38,468	57,658	34	8	51,487	32	7	6,171	25	7	11
Lebak	1	96,641	20,128	76,512	83,362	13	2	72,895	16	2	10,467	15	4	13
Lutayan	3	64,629	25,939	38,690	47,596	39	9	42,933	39	9	4,663	33	9	10
Palimbang	2	107,080	18,496	88,584	62,616	29	6	55,872	28	6	6,744	23	6	11
Pres.Quirino	4	27,060	4,910	22,151	42,098	42	10	36,092	45	11	6,006	27	8	14
Sen. Ninoy Aquino	3	45,812	23,686	22,126	40,363	43	11	38,672	42	10	1,691	41	10	4
REGION 13		4,179,196	980,115	3,199,081	3,198,299			2,724,286			474,013			15
Agusan Del Norte		446,541	137,323	309,218	414,438			376,849			37,589			9
Cabadbaran	2	97,399	31,925	65,474	73,684	12	1	65,073	9	1	8,611	19	1	12
Carmen	4	26,642	6,836	19,806	32,763	40	7	30,674	37	8	2,088	53	8	6
Jabonga	4	49,179	15,083	34,097	39,409	33	5	42,496	23	3	(3,088)	68	10	(8)
Kitcharao	4	36,733	22,037	14,696	40,468	30	4	34,476	30	5	5,993	30	3	15
Las Nieves	3	46,053	11,827	34,226	53,758	20	2	47,938	19	2	5,820	32	4	11
Magallanes	4	23,025	7,273	15,752	34,890	36	6	32,177	34	6	2,713	46	7	8
Nasipit	3	64,270	21,779	42,490	49,330	24	3	42,486	24	4	6,844	24	2	14
R.T. Romualdez	5	14,116	5,172	8,944	25,187	54	10	22,018	55	10	3,169	43	6	13
Santiago	4	67,541	8,542	58,998	32,442	42	9	28,014	43	9	4,428	35	5	14
Tubay	4	21,583	6,848	14,735	32,506	41	8	31,496	36	7	1,010	57	9	3
Agusan Del Sur		1,786,186	394,792	1,391,394	1,205,726			1,050,055			155,671			13
Bayugan	1	243,276	21,051	222,225	125,758	2	2	102,370	2	2	23,388	4	3	19
Bunawan	3	144,389	34,539	109,849	79,784	8	8	64,376	10	9	15,408	10	5	19
Esperanza	1	133,525	15,474	118,051	138,634	1	1	126,504	1	1	12,130	13	6	9
La Paz	1	144,462	26,442	118,021	100,516	4	4	91,191	3	3	9,325	17	9	9
Loreto	1	132,284	27,372	104,912	105,643	3	3	82,182	6	6	23,461	3	2	22
Prosperidad	2	167,263	30,501	136,762	89,222	6	6	90,111	4	4	(889)	66	13	(1)
Rosario	3	95,037	20,364	74,673	79,058	9	9	68,751	8	8	10,307	16	8	13
San Francisco	1	174,090	38,401	135,689	98,987	5	5	88,299	5	5	10,688	15	7	11
San Luis	3	51,525	29,528	21,997	74,200	11	10	74,698	7	7	(497)	65	12	(1)
Santa Josefa	4	80,153	30,595	49,558	45,999	27	14	49,135	16	12	(3,136)	69	14	(7)
Sibagat	2	132,029	11,040	120,989	61,326	18	12	55,158	13	11	6,168	27	10	10
Talacogon	3	67,174	20,919	46,255	67,398	15	11	45,129	20	14	22,269	5	4	33
Trento	2	103,296	48,416	54,879	86,721	7	7	63,219	11	10	23,502	2	1	27
Veruela	3	117,684	40,149	77,535	52,478	22	13	48,932	17	13	3,546	40	11	7
Surigao Del Norte		953,187	159,929	793,258	750,301			611,314			138,987			19
Alegria	5	18,253	4,929	13,324	22,061	62	20	13,602	69	27	8,459	21	5	38
Bacuag	5	23,761	5,496	18,265	24,182	56	15	21,517	56	15	2,665	47	15	11
Basilisa	4	33,944	2,410	31,534	31,695	45	8	27,322	45	7	4,373	37	12	14
Burgos	6	13,614	3,712	9,902	14,343	69	27	14,182	68	26	161	62	24	1
Cagdianao	4	73,138	1,501	71,637	44,933	28	2	32,081	35	2	12,852	12	2	29
Claver	4	82,109	3,538	78,572	68,052	14	1	35,140	28	1	32,912	1	1	48
Dapa	4	46,938	7,888	39,049	30,976	46	9	27,672	44	6	3,304	42	14	11
Del Carmen	5	44,501	10,964	33,537	32,770	39	5	26,695	46	8	6,075	29	10	19
Dinagat	5	52,141	3,175	48,966	26,952	53	13	17,902	62	20	9,050	18	4	34
General Luna	5	50,612	6,321	44,291	23,312	57	16	23,696	53	13	(384)	64	26	(2)
Gigaquit	4	14,794	1,246	13,548	28,184	50	11	28,111	42	5	73	63	25	0
Libjo	4	27,279	7,161	20,118	26,968	52	12	29,121	40	4	(2,153)	67	27	(8)
Loreto	4	33,189	2,749	30,440	32,416	43	6	26,251	49	10	6,165	28	9	19
Mainit	4	41,906	6,428	35,478	34,058	37	4	25,715	50	11	8,343	22	6	24
Malimono	5	32,837	5,216	27,621	24,440	55	14	17,913	61	19	6,527	26	8	27
Pilar	5	37,922	20,161	17,762	20,293	65	23	18,636	60	18	1,657	56	20	8
Placer	4	57,577	7,888	49,690	40,252	31	3	29,409	39	3	10,844	14	3	27
San Benito	5	20,019	13,238	6,780	16,423	68	26	14,253	67	25	2,170	50	17	13
San Francisco	5	6,902	2,107	4,794	21,282	63	21	20,386	58	16	896	59	22	4
San Isidro	5	23,381	11,354	12,028	16,761	67	25	16,486	66	24	274	61	23	2
San Jose	4	60,228	4,302	55,926	32,226	44	7	24,162	52	12	8,064	23	7	25
Santa Monica	5	24,431	2,010	22,420	19,845	66	24	17,847	63	21	1,998	55	19	10
Sison	5	9,144	1,622	7,522	22,507	61	19	20,094	59	17	2,413	48	16	11
Socorro	4	25,882	10,169	15,713	28,754	49	10	26,621	47	9	2,133	52	18	7
Taganaan	5	50,095	3,240	46,855	22,851	59	18	17,024	65	23	5,828	31	11	26
Tubajon	5	25,510	7,799	17,711	23,029	58	17	22,107	54	14	921	58	21	4
Tubod	5	23,079	3,304	19,775	20,737	64	22	17,388	64	22	3,369	41	13	16
Surigao Del Sur		993,282	288,072	705,210	827,835			686,069			141,766			17
Barobo	3	55,195	33,008	22,187	49,000	25	8	44,602	22	6	4,399	36	10	9
Bayabas	5	18,505	2,165	16,340	22,537	60	18	20,455	57	18	2,082	54	17	9
Cagwait	4	86,501	52,004	34,497	39,701	32	11	34,071	31	11	5,631	33	8	14
Cantilan	3	145,624	7,982	137,641	53,721	21	6	49,576	15	3	4,145	30	12	8
Carmen	5	18,808	2,960	15,848	29,144	48	16	26,349	48	16	2,795	44	13	10
Carrascal	4	34,363	12,563	21,800	34,045	38	14	29,067	41	15	4,978	34	9	15
Cortes	5	37,332	5,562	31,770	27,704	51	17	24,911	51	17	2,793	45	14	10
Hinatuan	3	78,844	19,948	58,896	51,320	23	7	44,614	21	5	6,707	25	7	13
Lanuza	4	37,343	16,266	21,077	46,646	26	9	32,926	32	12	13,719	11	5	29
Lianga	4	26,608	13,904	12,705	37,073	34	12	34,922	29	10	2,151	51	16	6
Lingig	4	52,417	19,502	32,915	62,656	16	3	40,699	25	7	21,957	6	1	35
Madrid	4	11,883	2,214	9,669	30,017	47	15	29,414	38	14	603	60	18	2
Marihatag	4	47,070	15,761	31,309	42,223	29	10	39,934	27	9	2,289	49	15	5
San Agustin	4	28,013	10,477	17,537	36,765	35	13	32,538	33	13	4,227	38	11	11
San Miguel	2	67,698	13,435	54,263	70,549	13	2	53,669	14	2	16,880	8	3	24
Tagbina	3	82,357	23,226	59,130	56,723	19	5	48,251	18	4	8,472	20	6	15
Tago	3	68,133	9,736	58,397	61,705	17	4	40,641	26	8	21,064	7	2	34
Tandag	2	96,587	27,358	69,228	76,307	10	1	59,432	12	1	16,876	9	4	22
ARMM		2,687,598	857,511	1,830,087	4,013,362			3,797,929			215,433			5
Basilan		307,612	126,524	181,088	352,494			330,831			21,663			6
Lamitan	2	89,237	39,247	49,990	66,988	10	2	66,276	8	2	713	45	4	1
Lantawan	4	46,131	19,070	27,060	40,549	38	5	37,755	39	5	2,794	23	2	7
Maluso	4	42,138	36,082	6,056	35,834	47	6	35,677	44	6	157	65	6	0
Sumisip	3	27,881	1,777	26,104	84,450	3	1	83,285	1	1	1,166	38	3	1
Tipo-Tipo	3	58,172	6,226	51,946	62,991	14	3	46,632	23	4	16,359	3	1	26
Tuburan	3	44,053	24,121	19,932	61,681	15	4	61,206	13	3	475	55	5	1
Lanao Del Sur		924,605	172,980	751,625	1,344,330			1,279,898			64,432			5
Bacolod-Kalawi	5	26,594	4,781	21,813	40,802	36	10	40,708	32	7	94	66	21	0
Balabagan	4	20,156	529	19,627	35,451	48	16	31,569	55	20	3,882	18	6	11
Balindong	4	20,185	832	19,353	35,847	46	15	25,516	80	34	10,331	7	3	29
Bayang	5	17,137	75	17,063	26,554	80	33	26,749	77	31	(195)	85	30	(1)
Binidayan	5	17,273	493	16,781	29,316	71	27	28,546	68	25	771	44	15	3
Buadi Puso Buntong	5	15,233	1,304	13,929	28,372	73	29	28,414	69	26	(42)	82	28	(0)
Bubong	4	36,694	2,427	34,268	64,229	13	1	51,696	18	3	12,533	4	1	20
Bumbaran	4	21,715	3,037	18,678	39,547	40	12	38,466	37	11	1,081	30	13	3
Butig	Uncl	2,206		2,206	34,986	51	19	35,286	46	15	(300)	86	31	(1)
Calanogas	5	9,632	279	9,353	17,598	97	37	17,553	97	37	45	88	22	0
Ditsa-an Ramain	4	23,385	1,629	21,756	39,828	39	11	27,362	74	28	12,465	5	2	31
Ganassi	5	13,351	317	13,034	33,357	53	20	33,715	50	17	(358)	90	34	(1)
Kapai	4	16,099	698	15,400	35,149	50	18	35,926	43	13	(777)	94	38	(2)
Kapatagan	5	37,652	1,110	36,542	31,836	58	23	25,752	79	33	6,084	13	4	19
Lumba Bayabao	4	62,265	30,314	31,951	53,858	18	3	53,031	16	2	827	43	14	2
Lumbaca Unayan	Uncl	3,218	283	2,935	13,666	100	38	13,078	99	38	587	50	17	4
Lumbatan	5	19,277	2,592	16,686	23,033	92	35	21,635	90	35	1,398	34	11	6
Lumbayanague	Uncl	19,277	2,592	16,686	23,033	93	36	21,635	91	36	1,398	35	12	6
Madalum	4	32,840	7	32,833	43,510	32	6	43,015	29	6	495	53	18	1
Madamba	5	5,897	121	5,776	30,943	62	25	30,939	59	22	5	78	26	0
Maguing	3	50,508	30,834	19,674	50,218	24	5	50,529	20	5	(311)	87	32	(1)
Malabang	4	43,798	5,187	38,612	41,142	34	8	38,607	36	10	2,535	24	8	6
Marantao	3	30,841	5,194	25,647	53,330	19	4	51,567	19	4	1,763	31	10	3
Marogong	4	29,472	12,759	16,713	29,996	67	26	30,621	61	23	(625)	93	37	(2)
Masiu	Uncl	21,329	3,455	17,875	27,929	76	30	27,909	70	27	20	74	24	0
Mulondo	4	43,660	19,528	24,132	41,302	33	7	39,012	35	9	2,290	29	9	6
Pagayawan	5	13,542	276	13,266	25,865	83	34	26,193	78	32	(327)	88	33	(1)
Piagapo	4	16,719	1,792	14,926	39,338	41	13	34,948	48	16	4,390	15	5	11
Picong	4	13,561	378	13,183	31,384	60	24	30,945	58	21	439	58	20	1
Poona Bayabao	5	12,615	180	12,436	32,817	55	21	32,780	51	18	37	71	23	0
Pualas	5	13,533	206	13,328	27,223	79	32	27,221	76	30	2	79	27	0
Saguiaran	4	46,833	21,728	25,105	41,003	35	9	40,318	34	8	684	47	16	2
Tagoloan	5	17,586	595	16,991	32,407	57	22	31,951	54	19	456	57	19	1
Tamparan	5	16,544	304	16,241	29,212	72	28	29,749	65	24	(537)	92	36	(2)
Taraka	4	17,857	83	17,774	35,229	49	17	35,597	45	14	(368)	91	35	(1)
Tubaran	4	37,171	13,076	24,095	37,413	45	14	37,553	40	12	(140)	84	29	(0)
Tugaya	4	15,110	-	15,110	27,303	78	31	27,292	75	29	11	76	25	0
Wao	Uncl	63,836	3,985	59,851	60,304	17	2	56,515	15	1	3,789	19	7	6
Maguindanao		405,431	223,515	181,915	655,086			630,320			24,766			4
Ampatuan	4	37,665	22,574	15,091	38,095	43	5	36,802	41	5	1,293	36	8	3
Buluan	4	44,717	32,902	11,815	70,735	6	1	68,354	7	2	2,381	26	5	3
Datu Abdullah Sangki	Uncl	1,039	1,301	(262)	27,976	75	11	27,511	73	12	465	56	10	2
Datu Montawal	Uncl	17,534	2,694	14,840	25,944	82	14	25,307	83	13	638	49	9	2
Datu Paglas	5	15,662	6,356	9,306	30,421	64	8	31,434	57	8	(1,014)	95	17	(3)
Datu Piang	3	46,221	28,603	17,619	52,700	20	3	43,843	27	4	8,857	9	1	17
Datu Saudi Ampatuan	Uncl	7,596	3,322	4,273	29,428	69	10	29,390	66	10	39	70	14	0
Datu Unsay	Uncl	13,588	9,117	4,471	22,716	94	18	24,338	84	14	(1,622)	97	18	(7)
Guindulungan	Uncl	11,312	292	11,020	26,422	81	13	20,596	93	17	5,826	14	2	22
Mamasapano	Uncl	50,150	16,209	33,941	27,912	77	12	27,606	72	11	307	61	12	1
Pagalungan	1	24,469	8,018	16,451	69,187	9	2	72,185	6	1	(2,998)	98	19	(4)
Paglat	Uncl	4,459	845	3,614	14,812	98	19	12,859	100	19	1,953	30	6	13
Rajah Buayan	Uncl	4,526	363	4,163	25,123	85	15	21,524	92	16	3,599	20	3	14
S.K. Pendatun	4	34,058	25,131	8,927	33,970	52	6	32,378	53	6	1,593	33	7	5
Shariff Aguak	3	39,446	19,983	19,463	50,729	22	4	50,293	21	3	436	59	11	1
South Upi	4	19,786	36,842	(17,056)	31,759	59	7	31,493	56	7	266	62	13	1
Sultan Sa Barongis	4	10,808	4,460	6,348	30,099	66	9	30,206	63	9	(108)	83	16	(0)
Talayan	4th	13,729	858	12,871	23,154	90	17	20,320	94	18	2,834	22	4	12
Talitay	Uncl	8,664	3,644	5,020	23,903	88	16	23,881	85	15	22	72	15	0
Shariff Kabunsuan		451,098	232,449	218,649	508,930			466,724			42,206			48
Barira	5	18,950	3,954	14,996	32,733	56	6	32,737	52	7	(4)	81	8	(0)
Buldon	4	40,743	33,381	7,361	47,526	28	5	45,208	25	5	2,318	27	4	5
Datu Odin Sinsuat	2	86,372	73,717	12,655	83,724	4	3	83,198	2	1	526	52	6	1
Kabuntalan	5	30,168	26,944	3,224	30,164	65	8	30,164	64	8	-	80	7	0
Matanog	5	19,084	21,144	(2,060)	30,961	61	7	34,285	49	6	(3,324)	99	9	(11)
Parang	1	106,013	40,751	65,262	88,576	1	1	81,729	3	2	6,847	12	3	8
Sultan Kudarat	1	62,557	21,289	41,268	87,512	2	2	76,503	4	3	11,009	6	2	13
Sultan Mastura	Uncl	9,972	2,886	7,086	24,583	86	9	23,344	86	9	1,239	37	5	5
Upi	3	77,239	8,382	68,857	83,152	5	4	59,556	14	4	23,596	1	1	28
Sulu		414,118	62,746	351,371	679,779			649,014			30,765			5
Hadji P. Tahil	5	9,801	985	8,815	14,356	99	18	13,710	98	18	645	48	9	4
Indanan	3	28,889	6,801	22,088	43,839	31	6	43,652	28	6	187	64	13	0
Jolo	2	60,492	8,402	52,091	81,494	6	1	62,911	12	3	18,583	2	1	23
Kalingalan Caluang	5	17,251	6,280	10,971	25,815	84	13	25,329	81	13	486	54	11	2
Lugus	5	18,606	1,714	16,892	23,224	89	15	23,208	87	14	16	75	17	0
Luuk	5	40,293	1,548	38,745	64,957	12	3	63,309	11	2	1,648	32	4	3
Maimbung	5	13,861	15,030	(1,169)	27,981	74	12	27,899	71	12	81	67	14	0
Panamao	4	20,845	978	19,867	33,138	54	9	30,617	62	10	2,521	25	2	8
Pandami	5	6,539	321	6,218	29,356	70	11	29,335	67	11	21	73	16	0
Panglima Estino	5	10,885	6,135	4,751	23,089	91	16	23,047	89	16	42	69	15	0
Pangutaran	4	17,817	1,094	16,723	37,465	44	8	35,156	47	8	2,309	28	3	6
Parang	3	15,015	4,996	10,019	49,375	26	4	48,497	22	4	878	41	6	2
Pata	5	20,544	521	20,023	19,914	96	17	19,720	96	17	194	63	12	1
Patikul	4	8,927	719	8,209	38,497	42	7	37,967	38	7	530	51	10	1
Siasi	3	65,151	5,400	59,751	47,495	29	5	46,437	24	5	1,057	40	5	2
Talipao	2	13,601	638	12,963	65,151	11	2	64,454	10	1	696	46	6	1
Tapul	5	13,496	165	13,331	23,915	87	14	23,055	88	15	859	42	7	4
Tongkil	5	32,103	1,019	31,084	30,720	63	10	30,710	60	9	10	77	18	0
Tawi-Tawi		184,735	39,297	145,438	472,744			441,142			31,601			7
Bongao	3	37,851	8,252	29,600	51,131	21	3	52,228	17	3	(1,097)	96	9	(2)
Languyan	3	25,085	1,409	23,676	60,074	16	2	64,084	9	2	(4,010)	100	10	(7)
Mapun	4	11,049	883	10,167	29,629	68	9	25,324	82	9	4,306	16	4	15
Panglima Sugala	3	24,529	1,048	23,481	49,476	25	5	41,693	30	5	7,783	10	2	16
Sapa-Sapa	4	16,762	8,123	8,639	40,600	37	8	36,492	42	8	4,108	17	5	10
Simunul	4	19,426	2,316	17,110	48,193	27	6	40,591	33	7	7,602	11	3	16
Sitangkai	2	8,081	34	8,047	77,111	7	1	73,523	5	1	3,587	21	6	5
South Ubian	4	6,167	2,090	4,077	44,822	30	7	45,164	26	4	(341)	89	8	(1)
Tandubas	3	33,104	14,089	19,015	50,466	23	4	41,174	31	6	9,292	8	1	18
Turtle Islands	5	2,680	1,054	1,626	20,341	95	10	19,969	95	10	372	60	7	2

Difference between totals and sum of components is due to rounding off
Rank
1-Regionwide Ranking
2-Provincewide Ranking

LGUs with unsubmited year-end financial reports as of cut-off date of June 15, 2007

Region 13	*ARMM*
Buenavista, Agusan del Norte	Sultan Dumalondong, Lanao del Sur

(PDI - Sept. 30, 20[illegible])

PRIME PROPERTIES FOR SALE!

1. THE MANANSALA AT ROCKWELL, MAKATI
36 SQ.M. STUDIO TYPE UNIT, WITH TOILET, AIRCON, BARE, FOR SALE AT P4.5M. OR FOR RENT AT P40,000/MO., INCLUSIVE OF CLUB & CONDO DUES, ADVANCE PAYMENT FOR ONE YEAR.

2. PENINSULA DE PUNTA FUEGO LOT
LOT 6, BLOCK 23, 75 PENINSULA AVE.
660 SQ.M.
PRE-SELLING PRICE : P12,500 / SQ.M. (NEGOTIABLE)

3. HOUSE AND LOT IN BACOLOD
(FORMERLY MONTESSORI SCHOOL)
5 NORTH DRIVE, BACK OF REDEMPTIONIST CHURCH, 600 SQ.M.
ASKING PRICE : P7M (NEGOTIABLE).

4. VILLA DE TOLEDO, STA. ROSA, LAGUNA
150 SQ.M., FACING ENCHANTED KINGDOM
ASKING PRICE : P700,000.

5. CENTRAL PARK CONDO 1
UNIT # 1808A
P. JORGE ST., PASAY CITY
47.65 SQ., 2-BEDROOM UNIT
ASKING PRICE : P1.1M

6. CENTRAL PARK CONDO 1
UNIT # 1809A
P. JORGE ST., PASAY CITY
31.50 SQ., 1-BEDROOM UNIT
ASKING PRICE : P750,000

For inquiries, please call JAIME TRINIDAD at 521-6138 or 522-4792 (during office hours), 842-0127 or 0917-7438789.

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PRIVATE SECTOR
MOBILIZATION FOR
FAMILY HEALTH
Implemented by
Chemonics International Inc

Request for Submission of Grant Applications

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Health Project (PRISM) is seeking applications for a grant award intended for

Establishing a Sustainable Training System for IUD, NSV and BTL for Private Health Providers

RFA 2007-03-02

PRISM is a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under USAID Contract Number 492-C-00-04-00036-00 and implemented by Chemonics International Incorporated.

Grant funding of up to a total amount of PHP 6M will be awarded to four qualified grant applicants in accordance with standard USAID policies.

This solicitation is open to Philippine-based and SEC-registered health oriented management or training institutions that have extensive experience with IUD (intra-uterine device), BTL (bilateral tubal ligation) and NSV (no-scalpel vasectomy) training systems in the public or private sector. Specific eligibility requirements are indicated in the Request for Applications (RFA) document.

The solicitation document will be released on **Tuesday, 25 September 2007.** Applicants interested in getting the full details of this solicitation can request for copies of the full RFA document from grants@prism.org.ph. Likewise, the RFA can be downloaded in PDF format from http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/PRISMGrants/. The closing date for the submission of application is **5:00pm, 26 October 2007.**

Grant Applicants' Conferences will be held at the following PRISM offices: **8 October 2007,** 9am at the PRISM Manila office 23/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, F. Ortigas Jr. Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City; **11 October 2007,** 2pm at the PRISM Davao office, 7/F Pryce Tower, Pryce Business Park, J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City; **12 October 2007, 2 pm** at the PRISM Cebu office Gold Zeal, 2F Cebu Holdings Center, Cebu Business Park, Cardinal Rosales Ave., Cebu City.

For further details, please contact Agnes Payson at this e-mail address apayson@prism.org.ph

(PDI -- September 25 & 30, 2007)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Request for Expressions of Interest

The Japan Social Development Fund Social Inclusion Project (JSDF-SIP) is a complementary Grant facility of the KALAHI-CIDSS: KKB Project. It aims to empower the poorest and most vulnerable groups in KALAHI-CIDSS areas (indigenous peoples, conflict-affected communities and women) to overcome identified constraints to their genuine representation and active participation in the implementation of the national anti-poverty program. The main project implementation strategy is characterized by piloting innovative approaches in addressing the participation constraints of target groups, and engaging LGUs and other stakeholders to provide the appropriate policy and institutional environment that encourages people's participation.

To facilitate the research, data gathering and technical writing of case studies on the different project sites of the JSDF-SIP, and produce the JSDF-SIP Best Practices kit, the National Project Management Office (NPMO) shall engage the services of a **Process Documentation Specialist.**

Work Objectives:

1. Conduct desk review of project design, community proposals and other relevant documents for the preparation of the inception report, work plan and case studies;
2. Formulate an accepted inception report including the process documentation work plan to be approved by the JSDF-SIP Unit/ National Working Group (NWG). This should contain the following information:
    - Rationale of the conduct of process documentation
    - Defined objectives
    - Process Documentation framework with defined variables
    - Detailed methodology and tools
    - Defined criteria for selection of best practices areas
    - Lessons learned to be captured in each project site
    - Detailed time frame
    - Working financial plan/ budget requirements containing info such as person days, logistics and travel expenses
3. Conduct data gathering and verification activities such as focused group discussions, key informant interviews and review of secondary information required for the development of the case studies;
4. Analyze gathered information using the developed hypothesis;
5. Develop and write at least eight accepted case studies based on the typology of community sub-projects with due consideration of geographic/ regional representation;
6. Identify sub-themes and innovations focused on the project typologies and project components
    - Preparation and review of community proposals;
    - Implementation of community proposals;
    - LGU and municipal engagement;
    - Generation and dissemination of lessons learned; and
    - Project management

Observe municipal and regional activities (e.g. meetings, assessment workshops, etc.) to gather/verify information relevant to the process documentation task if necessary;

8. Write and develop at least (8) books highlighting the results of the case studies, and package them into a kit;
9. Coordinate the layout and design of Best Practices kit;
10. Coordinate the production and presswork of (1,500) Best Practices Kit;
11. Present outputs to the JSDF-SIP Unit and NWG.

Qualifications:

1. Masters degree in Development Communication, Mass Communication, Communication Arts or any Social Science course;
2. At least 6 years of progressive experience in process documentation, research and technical writing, or communication work;
3. Proven track record in conducting process documentation, research and case study/report writing;
4. Professional exposure to development-oriented projects of international funding institutions, government agencies or non-government organizations;
5. Experience working with LGUs, indigenous peoples (IPs), conflict-affected communities and rural women; and
6. Excellent writing and speaking skills in English and Filipino; proficiency in any regional language an advantage.

Duration of Engagement:
November 2007 - April 2008 (six months)

Indicative Contract Price:
PhP 1,000,000.00 (inclusive of professional fees; subcontracting fees for researchers and layout artist; research, pre-press and printing costs; and travel costs).

Interested Applicants shall submit **Expression of Interest (1-page), Curriculum Vitae, and List of References** to **The Chairperson, DSWD-Bids and Awards Committee,** 2nd floor, DSWD Central Office, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with Tel. no.: 931-8101 loc. 217, and Fax. no.: 951-7116, or e-mail to **bacsec@dswd.gov.ph; dswdbacsec@yahoo.com; jsdf_sip@yahoo.com** or on before **October 8, 2007** at **5:00 p.m. Short-listed applicants will be required to present sample works.**

(Sgd.) **FLORITA R. VILLAR**
Assistant Secretary
and BAC Chairperson

(PDI – September 30, 2007)

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

The **NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (NDC)** invites interested bidders for the sale of its property with a total area of 1,155 square meters located along Mc Arthur Highway, Brgy. San Sebastian, Tarlac City in cash and on an "as-is, where is" basis. The minimum bid is set at P7.957 Million

Interested parties may register and secure Bidding Guidelines upon payment of P500.00 which is non-refundable beginning October 1, 2007 at:

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
c/o The Secretariat
Disposal Committee
6th Floor, National Development Company
116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
Direct Line: (02) 840-13-36; (02) 840-11-47;
Trunk Line: (02) 840-48-38 Locals 212 and 269

A pre-bid conference shall be held on 12 October 2007 at 9:30 AM at the Alberto Barretto Hall, National Development Company Bldg., 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City

Bids must be sealed and submitted between 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM of 17 October 2007 labeled and addressed as follows

THE CHAIRMAN
Disposal Committee
National Development Company
6th Floor, NDC Building
116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village
Makati City

CODE: TARLAC CITY PROPERTY

The opening of sealed bids, prepared in the prescribed forms and accompanied by a 10% bid bond, is scheduled on 17 October 2007 at 2:30 PM at the NDC Alberto Barretto Hall, NDC Building in the presence of all bidder(s) and/or their authorized representative(s). Bids submitted after 2:00 PM shall no longer be accepted.

The NDC Disposal Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any of the formalities required, or accept only such bids, which are deemed advantageous to NDC.

Disposal Committee Chairman

(PDI–September 28, 29 & 30, 2007)

KAMAYAN REALTY CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

The Kamayan Realty Corporation (KRC), a subsidiary of the National Development Company (NDC) offers for sale the following parcels of land in CASH and on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
METRO MANILA		
1. Jose Abad Santos Ave., Tondo, Manila	551.2 sq. meters (TCT No. 118795) former gasoline station	P 15,433,600
BICOL		
2. Lakandula Drive, Gogon, Legazpi City	11,996 sq. meters (TCT Nos. 15337, 15338 & 15339) former gasoline station and depot	P 53,742,080
CEBU		
3. M J. Cuenco Ave., Brgy Mabolo, Cebu City	9,767 sq. meters (TCT No. 63347) former warehouse	P 44,908,640
CAGAYAN DE ORO		
4. Corrales St. Extension, Macabalan District, Cagayan de Oro City	2,778 sq. meters (TCT No. 19348) former office and depot	P 31,113,600

Interested parties may register and secure Bidding Guidelines upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 from October 1-5, 2007 at:

The Secretariat
Bids, Auction and Awards Committee
Kamayan Realty Corporation
c/o National Development Company
6th Floor NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. (632) 840-1336; 840-4838 loc. 213 & 265

A pre-bid conference shall be held on October 23, 2007 at 9:30 AM at the Audio Visual Room, Alberto B. Barretto Hall, NDC Building.

Bids shall be accompanied by 10% bid bond and submitted between 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM of October 26, 2007 labeled and addressed as follows:

The Chairman
Bids, Auction and Awards Committee
Kamayan Realty Corporation
c/o National Development Company
6th Floor, NDC Bldg., 116 Tordesillas St.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City

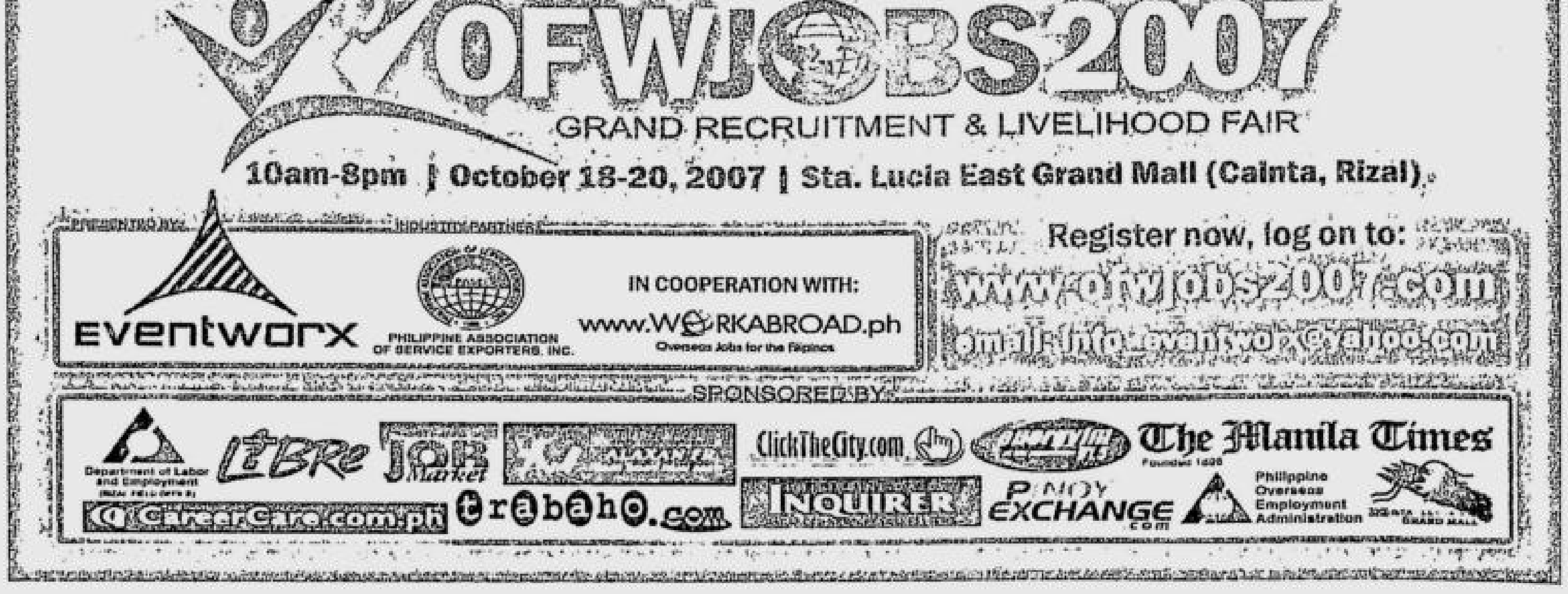
CODE: *Location of Property*

The opening of bids is scheduled on October 26, 2007 at 2:01 PM at the Audio Visual Room, Alberto B. Barretto Hall, NDC Building, in the presence of all bidder(s) and/or their authorized representative(s).

KRC reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any of the formalities required, or accept only such bids which are deemed advantageous to KRC.

(Sgd.) SATURNINO H. MEJIA
Chairman, BAAC

(PDI-Sept. 28, 29 & 30, 2007)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GRAND RECRUITMENT & LIVELIHOOD FAIR
10am-8pm | October 18-20, 2007 | Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall (Cainta, Rizal)
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www.WORKABROAD.ph
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PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF SERVICE EXPORTERS, INC.
SPONSORED BY:
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Libre
Job Market
ClickTheCity.com
The Manila Times
CareerCare.com.ph
trabaho.com
INQUIRER
PINOY EXCHANGE .com
Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

PASEI supports OFW Jobs 2007

THE PHILIPPINE Association of Service Exporters, Inc. (PASEI) recently signed up with EventWorx Company as its official Industry Partner for the OFW Jobs 2007 event, happening on Oct. 18-20, at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall (Cainta, Rizal).

In a Memorandum of Agreement signed Oct. 27, the biggest association representing over 750 licensed recruitment agencies, vowed to support the event, in an effort to help its members, maximize talent sourcing through organized recruitment events such as the OFW Jobs 2007.

OFW Jobs 2007: A Grand Recruitment and Livelihood Fair is an effort to provide a venue where legitimate recruiters, even their foreign principals, and the jobseeking public, can meet for a 3-day recruitment for various job opportunities abroad.

The event also features various learning events including select talks on potential livelihood options, which returning OFWs and first-timers can take—in an effort to encourage them establish a local business even while actively working abroad.

For bookings and other inquiries, please contact EventWorx Company at tel. no. 746-2764, mobile phone 0906-2457831, or email via info_eventworx@yahoo.com. For interested jobseekers who wish to register for the event, visit www.ofwjobs2007.com.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Brief Description of GOODS : **Various Information and Communication Technology Equipment (LEPTES-04)**

Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), through the General Appropriations Act FY 2006, RA 9336, As Reenacted, intends to apply the sum of **Twenty Million Pesos and 00/100 (Php 20,000,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing, Training and Commissioning of Various Information and Communication Technology Equipment (LEPTES-04)**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

TESDA now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for **Various Information and Communication Technology Equipment (LEPTES-04)**. Delivery of the Goods to the TESDP institutional sites shall be thirty (30) calendar days from date of contract signing. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184. (R.A. 9184) otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat at the PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION, 3rd Flr. TESDA Administration Building, TESDA Complex, East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway, Taguig City and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (Monday to Friday) starting **October 1, 2007**.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Ten Thousand Pesos only (P10,000.00). The method of payment will be in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

TESDA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **October 12, 2007, 2:00 P.M.** at **Aquino Room, Learning Center,TESDA Administration Building.**

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **10:00 A.M., October 26, 2007**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of:

- Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit equivalent to 1% of ABC; or
- Bank guarantee equivalent to 1½% of ABC; or
- Surety Bonds are which shall be callable on demand and valid for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days equivalent to 2.5% of the ABC; or
- Foreign Government Guarantee equivalent to 100% of the ABC.

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be held on **October 26, 2007, 2:00 P.M.at the Aquino Room, Learning Center, TESDA Administration Building**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

TESDA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MR. TEODORO S. SANICO
Chairperson, BAC
TESDA Administration Building, TESDA Complex
East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway
Taguig City, Philippines

Tel. No.: **817-40-76 to 80 local 314 & 315**
TeleFax No.: **893-8296**
E-mail: **psd_ocsa@tesda.gov.ph**
Website: **www.tesda.gov.ph**

(Sgd.) **T.S. SANICO**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Sept. 30 & Oct. 7, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT
Field Office No. 9, Zamboanga City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

The Department of Social Welfare and Development, Field Office No. 9, Gen. Vicente Alvarez Street, Zamboanga City, through the 2006 continuing appropriation intends to apply the sum of NINE MILLION TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND PESOS PHP9,280,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Phase III Construction of Regional Office Building. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development, Field Office 9, Zamboanga City, now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOI) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Phase III Construction of Regional Office Building. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirement stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOI's on or before October 15, 2007 at DSWD Regional Field Office 9, General Vicente Alvarez St., Zamboanga City and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents, which will be on October 16, 2007 at 1:30 P.M. at the Regional Office 9, Zamboanga City. Only Bidders passing the Eligibility Check will be entitled to purchase Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at DSWD Field Office 9, Gen. Vicente Alvarez St., Zamboanga City on or before October 16, 2007 at 10:00 A.M.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Department of Social Welfare & Development, Field Office 9, Zamboanga City and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on October 17-19, 2007.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P 5,000.00. The method of payment will be cash basis. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder, or his authorized representative.

The DSWD Field Office No. 9 will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 22, 2007, 1:30 p.m., at the Operations and Control Room (OCR), DSWD FO 9.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before November 5, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. Bid Opening shall be on November 5, 2007 at 1:30 P.M. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash in the amount of PHP92,800.00.

The DSWD Field Office No. 9 reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

DSWD FIELD OFFICE IX
HONESTO R. ABANTO
GEN. VICENTE ALVAREZ ST.
ZAMBOANGA CITY
TEL-062-991-6056
TEL FAX (062) 993–0652

(Sgd.) PAQUITO P. BAYAWA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
DSWD Field Office No. 9, Zamboanga City

(PDI – September 30, 2007)

Philippine Nursing opportunities conference and expo set Sept. 28

THE 1ST AND BIGGEST EVENT FOR FILIPINO Nurses — the "1st Philippine Nursing Opportunities Conference and Expo (PNOCE) 2007" is set to open at the Megatrade Hall 2, SM Megamall Bldg. B, Mandaluyong City. The 1st Philippine Nursing Conference and Expo 2007. The exhibit hall is open from 10 a.m. up to 8 p.m. The 1st Philippine Nursing Opportunities Conference and Expo 2007 is conceptualized to provide all those in the Nursing world – Nursing students, Nursing graduates, and licensed Nurses, insights on opportunities to help jumpstart their Nursing careers.

The Philippines is one of the best sources of nurses in the world because of their professionalism and innate caring kind of nursing care. Demand for Filipino nurses continues to grow. In the United States alone, demand is estimated at 600,000 between now and 2020.

In other countries, demand for Filipino nurses is also on the rise. There is a demand for nurses in Austria, Norway and other first world countries and there is no sign of slowing down on the demand for quality Filipino nurses. Currently, 57 percent of Filipino nurses abroad are in Saudi Arabia and only 14 percent are in the United States; 12 percent are in the United Kingdom. The preferred destination of nurses seeking jobs abroad is the United States because of the possibility of acquiring US citizenship and all its privileges.

Organizations and companies who can help propel their Nursing Career are available during the event. Review centers include: Carl Balita Review Center, Edgeworth Review Center, 9.0Niner IELTS Review & Tutorial, Professional Review Strategies for Nurses, Rachell Allen Reviewers USA, Center for Excellence in Nursing Education, We Pro Asia, CareerWorx Review Corporation, USGC-Taft, Magsaysay Global Services, One Logic Systech, Inc. Notable institutions like British Council, IDP Education Pty. Ltd, are also joining. Agencies and consulting companies on immigration and those providing information on various work opportunities for nurses include International Student Advisors 4 U, Health Carousel Phils., Inc., Global Summit Consultancy Assistant Services, Immigrant Visa Center, Mercan Canada Employment Philippines, Informatics Computer Institute, United Staffing Solutions, Inc. Business companies who offer business opportunities to Filipino nurses include Mega Cellular Network Inc., Concept Specialist, Club Ultima, Da San Yuan Health Center, King Flute, YJC Beauty and Slimming Center and Smart Laundry.

The 1st Philippine Nursing Opportunities Conference and Expo (PNOCE) 2007 is supported by the Philippine Nurses' Association and co-presented by Globe Telecoms. Major sponsors include Edgeworth Review Center, Sidann Printing Services, Airlife – the quality medical and nursing supplies supplier. 9.0 Niner IELTS Review Center is the minor sponsor. Media partners include the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Job Market, Asean Biztimes, NewsDigest and Work Abroad.

Health Policy Development Program

UPecon Foundation, Inc.
A USAID-supported project in partnership with
FACE, Inc and UCSF-IGH

The Health Policy Development Program

The Health Policy Development Program (HPDP) is a USAID-supported, 5-year initiative implemented by the UPecon Foundation, Inc. It aims to assist the Department of Health (DOH) in its institutional role of shaping the policy environment towards achieving better health outcomes, a more responsive health system, and equitable health care financing. HPDP is providing assistance along the following Program Components:

1) Contraceptive Self-Reliance, Family Planning/ Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (CSR-FP/MNCH)
2) Standards and Regulations (S&R)
3) Local Health Systems (LHS)
4) Health Care Financing (HCF)
5) Capacity-Building, Sustainability and Institutionalization (CSI)

As part of the CSI component, HPDP is implementing the Health Policy Fellowship Program (HP).

HEALTH POLICY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

HPDP wishes to announce its **Health Policy (HP) Fellowship Program** for junior professionals interested to pursue a career in health policy work. The HP Fellowship Program provides exciting learning opportunities in policy work through internship with the DOH, and/or its attached agencies as **HP Fellows**. The **HP Fellows** will be provided opportunities to:

a. Perform regular and special technical staff work on a full-time basis;
b. Attend short courses on health policy;
c. Participate in various policy fora and workshops; and
d. Meet regularly with designated HPDP mentors to discuss progress of their policy work

Applicants must be graduates of degree programs in medicine or other health-related courses, public administration, economics and other social sciences, management, communications, information technology, statistics or mathematics. They must express interest in health policy and systems development work.

Successful applicants will be engaged for a minimum of six months. HPDP offers a highly competitive compensation package for the fellowship, depending on individual qualifications.

To apply, please submit: (1) letter of application, (2) curriculum vitae, and (3) official transcript of records or true copy of grades, to Dr. Orville C. Solon, Chief of Party, HPDP, Room 322, PCED Building, UP School of Economics, Diliman, Quezon City, 1101.

For inquiries, please write or call

Ms. Risa S. Yapchiongco,
HPDP Program Associate,
at Telefax +63 2 436 3677,
Tel +63 2 927 9686 loc 321 and 322,
or e-mail at **upecon.hpdp@gmail.com**

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Office of the Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
c/o Planning and Development Office
2nd Floor, Bldg. 662, Central Business District,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone
Tel. No. (047) 252-4097 • Fax No.: (047) 252-4098

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines
Subic Bay Freeport Comprehensive Master Plan

Consultancy Services for the Preparation of Subic Bay Freeport Comprehensive Master Plan. The scope of consultancy services are: (1) Preparation of Comprehensive Master Plan and District Plans, (2) Preparation of Traffic and Transportation Master Plan, (3) Preparation of Infrastructure Plan, (4) Preparation of Utility Master Plan.

1. The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), through allocated funds from SBMA Corporate Budget for fiscal year 2007, intends to apply the sum of Php 15 Million being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Consultancy Services for the Preparation of Subic Bay Freeport Comprehensive Master Plan. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.

2. The SBMA now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential consultancy firms to apply for eligibility and short listing for the Consultancy Services for the Preparation of Subic Bay Freeport Comprehensive Master Plan. Interested consultants must submit their LOIs on or before October 10, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to:

   Atty. Ferdinand L. Hernandez
   BAC Chairman
   Bids and Awards Committee
   c/o Planning and Development Office
   2nd Floor, Bldg. 662, Central Business District, SBFZ

   and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00) to the SBMA Treasury Department at Bldg. 229, Waterfront Road, Central Business District, Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated by examining the completeness of each prospective bidder's submitted eligibility statements against a checklist of requirements using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria, as stated in the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid (IAEB), and shall be determined as either "eligible" or "ineligible." The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on October 17, 2007 up to 5:00 p.m. only at the above address.

   The Procuring Entity's BAC will open the envelopes containing the Eligibility Documents in the presence of the prospective Bidder's authorized representative(s) who choose to attend on October 19, 2007 starting 9:00 a.m. at PPMD Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

3. The BAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted Letters of Intent (LOIs) and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). Only five (5) eligible bidders shall make up the shortlist. Only those who are short listed will be entitled to submit bids. The criteria and rating system for short listing are:

   - Experience of Consultant(s), Qualification of Personnel and current workload.
   - The evaluation procedure to be adopted is Quality-Based Evaluation (QBE).
   - The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Bidding Documents.

4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. Bid documents will be available only to short listed bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000.00) to the SBMA Treasury Department at Bldg. 229, Waterfront Road, Central Business District, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

5. Interested consultants may obtain further information from Planning and Development Office at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

   Planning and Development Office
   2nd Floor, Bldg. 662
   Central Business District
   Subic Bay Freeport Zone
   Tel No: (047) 252-4097

6. The contract shall be completed within six (6) months from receipt of Notice to Proceed (NTP).

7. The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, SBFZ reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders

(Sgd.) ATTY. FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ
BAC Chairman

(PDI - September 30, 2007)

JULITA JAMIAS BENGZON

*was peacefully embraced by our Divine Lord
on her eternal journey on September 29, 2007
at the age of 100.*

Her bereaved children **Aida**, **Erlie** and **Blondie**; son-in-law **Boy Cajigas**; grandchildren **Gino** and **Bing**, **Ritzie**, **Anton** and **Ruby**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in prayers for her reunion with the Holy Trinity.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Inc., Chapel Dao.

Interment will be on October 02, 2007 at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

Death Notice

Amelia Mistades Dumagat

Died Sept. 26, 2007 at the age of 65.

Her body lies in state at her residence at 1958 J. Patino St., Sta. Ana, Manila.

Interment is on Oct. 2, 2 p.m. at Manila South Cemetery, Makati.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.) WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments.

- Thank You -

We, the family of the late

PRECIOSO "PAPA SONG" SANTOS DAVID SR.

thank you for your love and prayers, presence, cards, flowers and messages of support that lifted our spirits and warmed our weary hearts.

We are filled with your love and reminded that our dear Daddy is with the Lord. May we continue to care for each other in the same way Papa Song loved us all.

Lovingly,

Wilfrida; Marlyn; Bernie, Nelia, Paolo, Dale, Rico, Jonnel and Jared; Precioso Jr. "Sunny", Karen(†), Rachel, Angelo and John Wil; Sev, Gigi, Martin, Yoyo and Louie; Jojo, Mac, Johannes, Julienne and Jan.

"Even when I walk through the valley of death, I will not be afraid for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me." Psalm 23:4

ANTONIO S. HERRERA

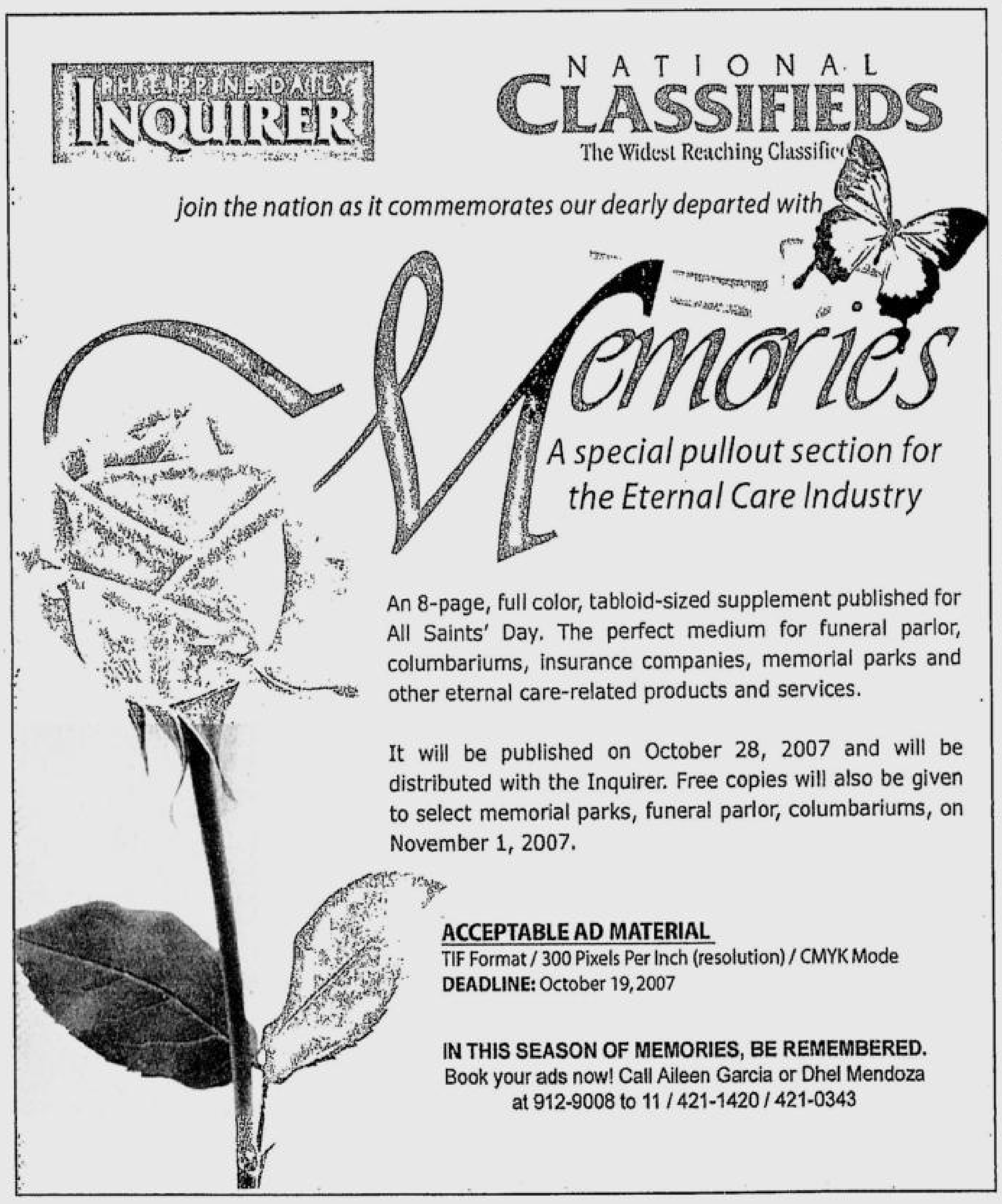
*Peacefully joined his Creator on
September 28, 2007 at the age of 62.*

His loving wife *Nida;* children *Marides & Joey, Marisel, Mel & Weng* and *Anna;* grandchildren *Nicko, Nica, Matthew* and *Marc;* brothers, other relatives and friends, request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Garden Suite, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Tentative cremation will be on October 3, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Loyola Crematory Services, Makati City.

> **"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."**
>
> 2 Corinthians 5:8



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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join the nation as it commemorates our dearly departed with

Memories

A special pullout section for the Eternal Care Industry

An 8-page, full color, tabloid-sized supplement published for All Saints' Day. The perfect medium for funeral parlor, columbariums, insurance companies, memorial parks and other eternal care-related products and services.

It will be published on October 28, 2007 and will be distributed with the Inquirer. Free copies will also be given to select memorial parks, funeral parlor, columbariums, on November 1, 2007.

ACCEPTABLE AD MATERIAL
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DEADLINE: October 19, 2007

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People, Events & Products

16th NATIONAL RETAILERS CONFERENCE
STRENGTHENING RETAIL IN A YEAR OF GROWTH
STORES ASIA EXPO 2007
PHILIPPINE RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

MANELS JOINS THE 16TH NRCE

Manels Leathergoods, known for quality fashion leather shoes, bags and accessories joins the 16th National Retailers Conference & Stores Asia Expo, the biggest retail event in the country to be held on August 15-17 (Expo) and August 16-17 (Conference) at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel Mandaluyong City. Present during the contract signing were (from left) 16th NRCE Participation and Publicity Committee Chairman & PRA VP Chan Kok Bin, PRA President & SM SVP-Operations Jorge Mendiola, Manels Leathergoods executive Mark Siggaoat and 16th Stores Asia Expo Chairman and PRA VP Paul Santos.

People, Events & Products

Top developers get NREA Awards

TOP PROPERTY DEVELOPERS, AYALA Land, Inc, and Rockwell Land Corporation are the first recipients of the "1st Connecting Communities Award," given by the National Real Estate Association (NREA) this year.

"The award is given to property developers for allowing the public use of the developers' privately-owned or maintained roads," according to NREA vice chairman Archt. Felino A. Palafox, Jr., chairman of the awards committee.

On the other hand, Mr. Alejandro S. Mañalac, NREA president said that the award also aims to promote the inter-connectivity of cities, towns, communities and neighborhoods into a more integrated urban fabric.

Vice Pres. Noli de Castro, concurrent chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) and NREA chairman Jose V. Manalad led the giving of the awards during the opening of the NREA-HUDCC National Convention and Housing Fair held recently.

MAKATI PALACE HOTEL IS A SAFE AND SECURED HOTEL

The exemplary honesty of Mr. Salvador Jomocan and Ms. Wea Lyn Valero, both housekeeping associates is recognized by the management of Makati Palace Hotel when Mr. Jomocan turned over the wallet of Mr. Yousef Karaim containing foreign currencies and several credit cards and Ms. Valero turned over an envelope containing US$660.00 of Mr. John Hansor when their guests checked-out on Aug. 24 and Sept. 6 respectively. Shown are the management associates recognizing them are standing from left Exec Housekeeper-Arlene Hernando, Hotel Consultant-Rafael S. Chico, Hkpg Supervisor – Glendo Pilongo, Security Officer-Rogelio Santos, recipient Valero, MIS Head-Jerome Santos, Chef Bonifacio Lumot and Chef Cesar Garcia, Deputy Hotel Manager–Mey Ann Munda, FO Supervisor-Tet Montellano, F&B OIC–Alberto Abergas, Engineer Genaro Aquino and also the recipient-Jomocan.

FIRST LIFE STRENGTHEN LINK WITH SWISS LIFE NETWORK

First Life President and CEO, Peter Coyiuto (left), attended the Swiss Life Network Asia Pacific Conference in Shanghai, China with Swiss Life Head & Senior Vice President of International Division — Margrit Schmid (fourth from right). Joining them in the conference are Anne Wan, Team Leader of Group Insurance Project Management and Clement Cheung, Deputy Manager of Ping – An, the 2nd largest insurance company in China.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Exclusives

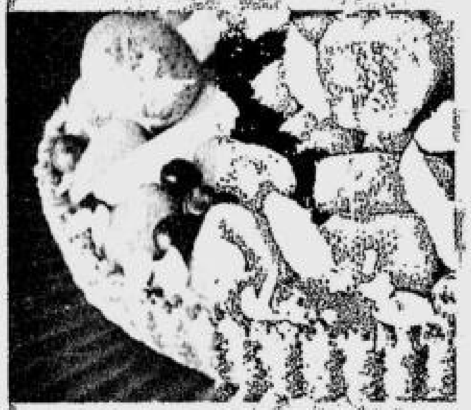
Editorial Director Cheche V. Moral

Guest Editor J Gamboa

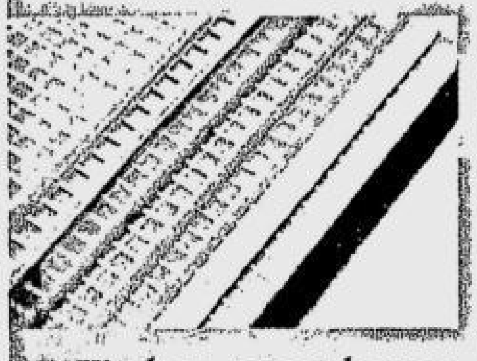
is executive chef of Cirkulo and Milky Way Restaurants. He is also a director of Les Toques Blanches Philippines, the national chefs association. He hopes one day to field a national culinary team to compete in the Culinary Olympics in Germany, building on the team's success earlier this year at the Hong Kong International Culinary Classic.

Toques of the town

Today's Specials



4 chefs, 4 specialties

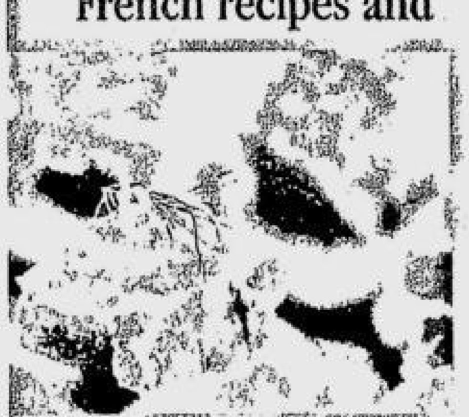


Kitchen must-haves

Party-planning tips

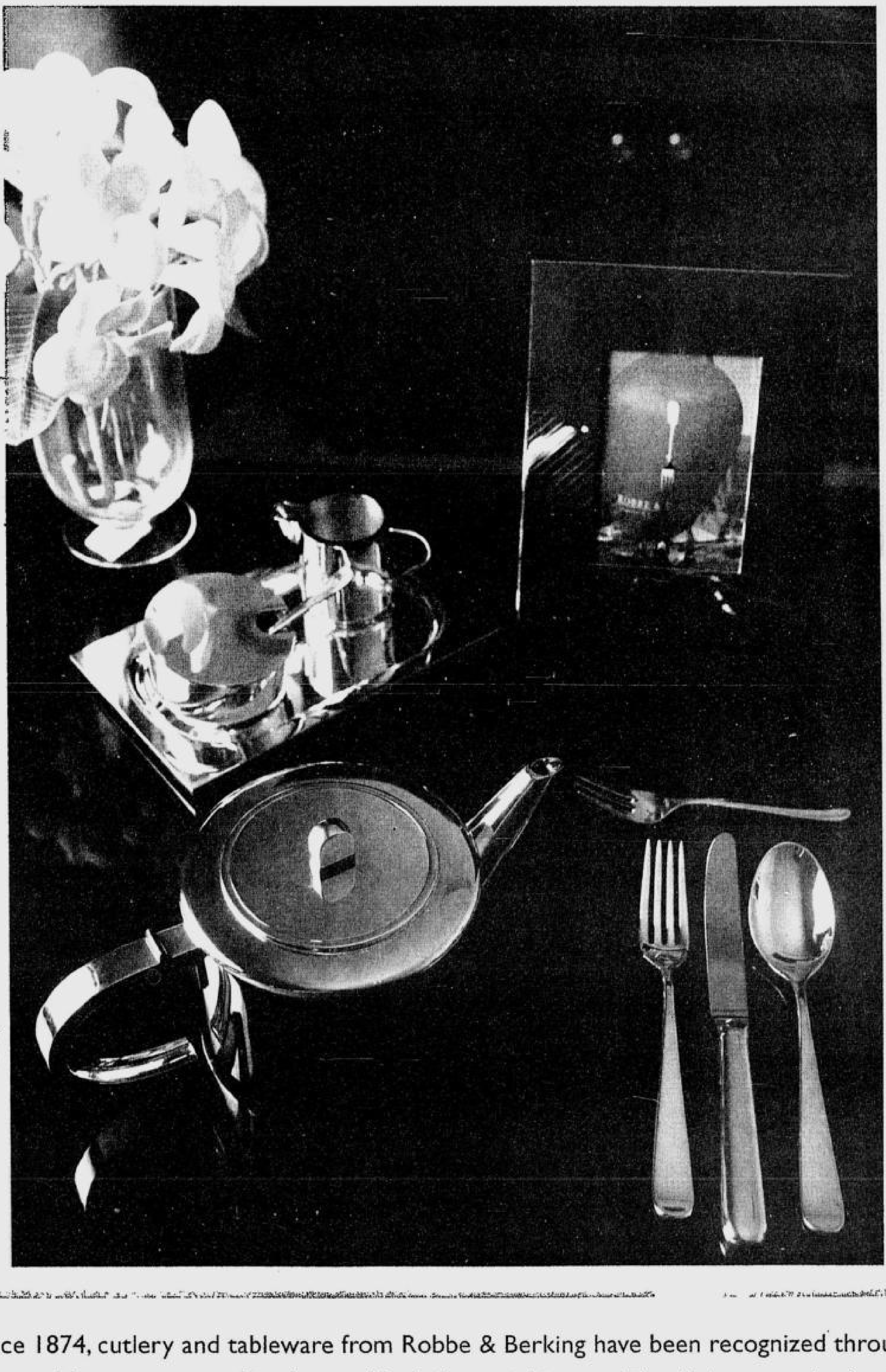
5-city restaurant guide

Future chefs, French recipes and



A Spanish gastronomic fiesta

ROBBE & BERKING

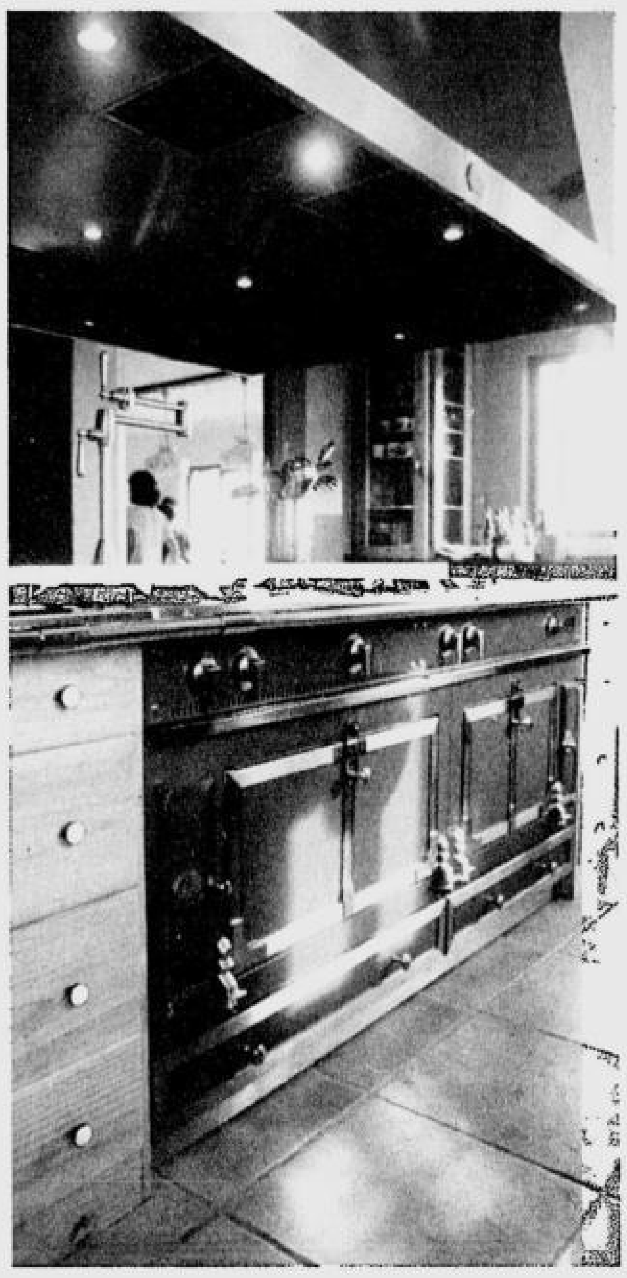


Since 1874, cutlery and tableware from Robbe & Berking have been recognized throughout the world as unsurpassed in the world of silversmithing art. The highest standards of workmanship has been the hallmark and legacy of this German silverware manufacturer is now exclusively available at Rustan's Makati.

Rustan's

French country cooking —in Laguna

A French chef anoints my friend Dan's brand-new French-made kitchen range with a sublime 6-course feast



THE HANDMADE French oven La Cornue Five-Star Chateaux Range

PHOTOS: CHITO VECINA

By J. Gamboa

IN THE SUMMER OF 2003, MY DEAR FRIEND CYRILLE SOENEN, executive chef of Hotel Intercontinental Manila (and of Prince Albert Rotisserie fame), invited chef Fernando Aracama and myself to his home in Coubron, France, for a week of eating, drinking and French culture.

On the Air France flight, we chanced upon my pal, Dan K, who was also on his way to France to meet his girlfriend, Joy.

We did not get to talk much on the flight, but I do recall him talking about an oven he was interested in for the house he was soon to build.

Fast forward to 2007. Cyrille is now executive chef of the Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn Galleria in Ortigas, and Dan is now married to Joy, living with their beautiful kids in a lovely house with the oven Dan was talking about.

That oven was La Cornue Five-Star Chateaux Range. These ovens are handmade in France by a single craftsman and can take up to four months to complete. They're so beautifully made that even non-cooks can easily appreciate them.

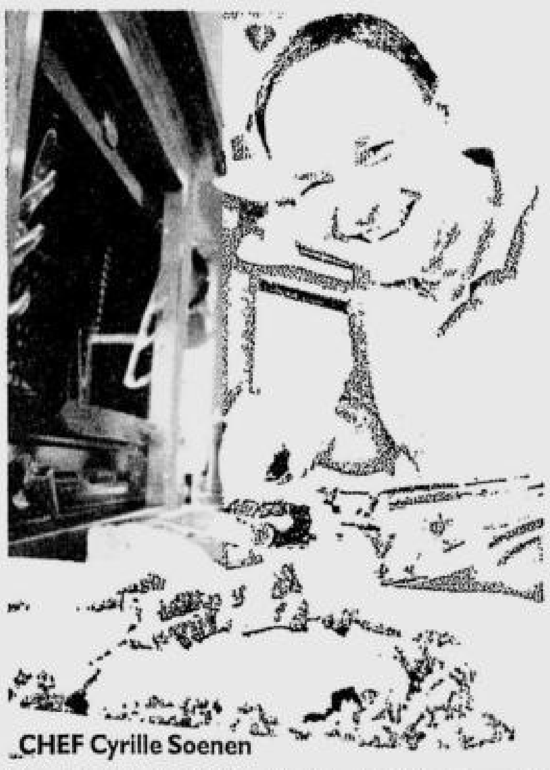
I bumped into Dan a couple of months ago and he told me his house was almost done and La Cornue installed. I took a chance and asked Dan if it would be possible to do an INQUIRER shoot in his kitchen. Naturally, I would invite a Frenchman to do the honors—Chef Cyrille, no less.

Thankfully he agreed. This was going to be fun, I could taste it already!

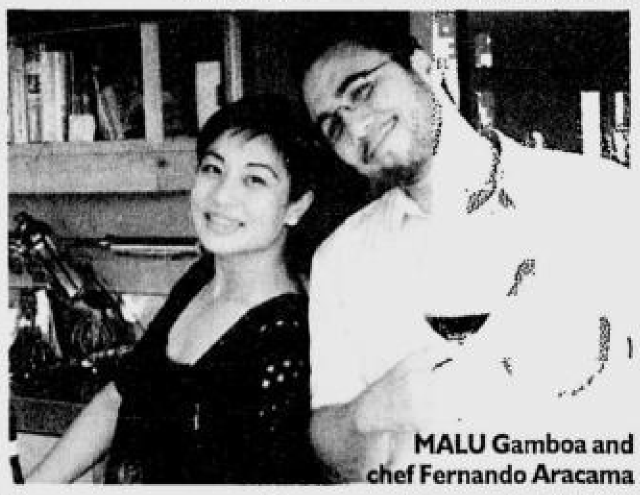
I asked Chef Cyrille to prepare a French country menu ***(See sidebars)*** using the La Cornue stove, oven, rotisserie and teppanyaki grill. I then contacted our wine expert from Werdenberg International Corp. and Santi's Deli, Mimi Reyes, to recommend and select the French wines.

Breads naturally had to be French, too. I asked my pal and former coworker, chef Sau del Rosario of Chelsea Market Café and Food Garage, for some of his beautiful French country breads. For desserts, pastry chef James Antolin, program director of the Center for Culinary Arts-Manila (CCA), came to our aid.

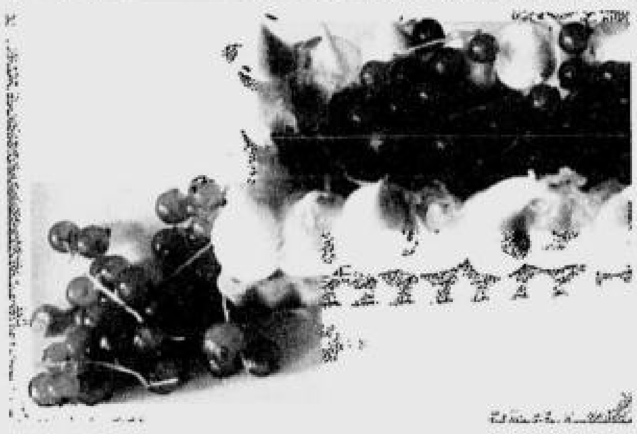
Of course, the meal would not be complete without Fernando and my sister Malu to help put everything together. The stage was then set for a truly special day of cooking, eating and drinking at Dan's French kitchen in Laguna.



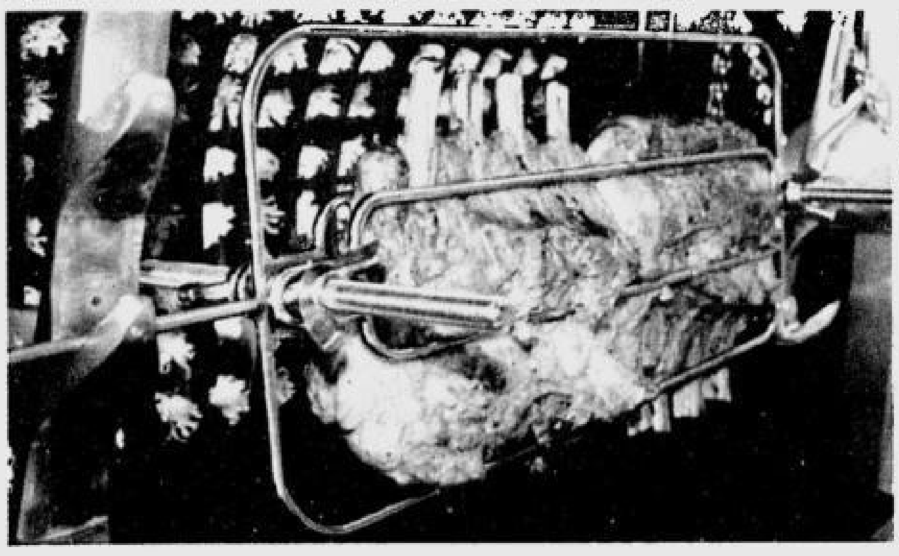
CHEF Cyrille Soenen



MALU Gamboa and chef Fernando Aracama



CHEF James Antolin



The Menu

By Cyrille Soenen
Executive chef, Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn Galleria Manila

Dessert by James Antolin
Program director, CCA Manila

Aperitif

Sancerre Blanc Les Fondettes 2006, Sauvion
Gil Planson Champagne, NV

Appetizer

Roasted Whole Duck Liver (Cooked Tagine-Style), Apples, Apricots and Red-Grape Sauce and Herb Salad with Almonds

Brioche and Pain de Campagne from the Food Garage

Sauternes de Lucy de Fossarieu 2004

Soup

Cappuccino of Porcini Broth served with Lobster

Petit Chablis 2005, La Chablisienne

First Main Course

Apahap Fillet Cooked à la Plancha with Crispy Skin, Garlic Chips, Fresh Basil and Tapenade

Pouilly-Fuisse 2004, Roger Luquet

Second Main Course

Veal Rack Cooked in the Rotisserie Served with Fricassee of Chanterelles, Black Chanterelle and Cepe Mushrooms, Potato Boulangeres

Sancerre Rouge Les Fondettes 2005, Sauvion

Cheese Platter

Tomme de Savoie

La Louche Camembert

Saint Nectaire

Bleu de Auvergne

Fougasse and Baguette from the Food Garage

Chateau Le Boscq 1999, St.-Estephe Cru Bourgeois

Dessert

Lemon Tart with Fresh Red Currants and Candied Orange Zest

Chocolate Tart with Fresh Strawberries and Blueberries

Chateau du Cleray Muscadet de Sevre et Maine 2006, Sauvion

Cyrille Soenen

From Intercontinental Hotel Paris to Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Cyrille Soenen first became known as executive sous chef of the Prince Albert Rotisserie in 2000. There he introduced Manila to the pleasures of foie gras and seasonal French specialties never before served in Manila like Hare à la Royale and Pithivier of Duck and Truffle. Shortly thereafter, he was promoted to executive chef, and was put in charge of the entire hotel's kitchen operations.

In 2005, Chef Cyrille moved to Crowne Plaza Hotel in Ortigas to open Seven Corners, a restaurant with an interactive buffet. The restaurant became known for Chef Cyrille's Prime Rib and Foie Gras. Soon he also functioned as the executive chef for Crowne Plaza's sister hotel, Holiday Inn Galleria Manila. To my knowledge, Chef Cyrille is the only executive chef in Manila that handles two separate properties.

LA CORNUE
20 juillet 2006

Chef Cyrille is undoubtedly the best French chef in town. His refined and fresh approach to classic French dishes removes from your mind the idea that French food is heavy, sauce-laden and rich. His food is just beautiful and delicious.

As they say, the proof is in the eating. Catch Chef Cyrille at Seven Corners in Crowne Plaza and at Fab The Restaurant in Holiday Inn Galleria.

James Antolin

James Antolin is an accomplished pastry chef by profession. He graduated from the California Culinary Academy, and is a veteran of the Four Seasons Hotel, Newport Beach, California, and Patina Restaurant under master chef Joachim Spichal in Hollywood.

Chef James is now a dedicated culinary educator, as program manager of the Center for Culinary Arts-Manila, frequently encouraging his students to participate in local and international culinary competitions. Most recently, he successfully qualified CCA-Manila for American Culinary Federation accreditation. He knows that students are the future, and is happy to share with them his knowledge.

Recipes

Roasted Whole Duck Liver (Cooked Tagine-Style), Apples, Apricots and Red-Grape Sauce and Herb Salad with Almonds

2 pc duck liver (400-500 g each)
2 pc apples, cut in wedges
100 g dried apricot
300 g red grapes
80 g almond sticks
30 g mint, cleaned
30 g coriander, cleaned
30 g basil, cleaned
30 g chives, cleaned
30 g tarragon
400 ml duck gravy
200 ml balsamic vinegar
Salt and pepper

Clean duck liver by removing the veins. Season with salt and pepper. Sear duck liver in hot pan. Sear apple wedges in hot pan with butter.

Place duck liver in a tagine pan together with apricots, half of the grapes, seared apples and almond sticks. Cook in the oven at 200°F for 10-15 minutes.

Cook the sauce by caramelizing half of the grapes. When the grapes are about to get brown, deglaze with balsamic vinegar. Then add duck gravy, season with salt and pepper and let it cook slowly.

Remove tagine pan from the oven. Remove the duck liver and the fruits from the tagine and set aside. Remove the duck fat from the tagine pan.

Slice duck liver into serving portions and return to tagine. In a pan, add the reserved fruits from the tagine and the sauce. Bring to a simmer.

Pour the sauce over the duck liver. Arrange the fruits around the duck liver.

In a bowl, combine mint, tarragon, basil, coriander and chives for the Herb Salad. Dress with a little bit of the duck fat and balsamic vinegar.

Place herb salad on top of the duck liver. Serve.

Veal Rack Cooked in Rotisserie Served with Fricassee of Chanterelles, Black Chanterelle and Cepe Mushrooms, Potato Boulangeres

1 pc (3 kg) veal rack, frenched
500 ml veal stock
5 ml truffle oil
150 g black chanterelle
150 g cepes mushrooms
150 g chanterelle mushrooms
5 pc shallot
30 g spring onion
70 g bacon
160 g baby potatoes
4 ml chicken broth
100 g butter
2 ml olive oil
30 g parsley

Prepare veal rack by cutting into two in the middle, to make cooking easier. Season veal with salt and pepper. Sear the veal in a hot pan with a little oil and continue cooking in the rotisserie (or 350°F oven, for about 30-45 minutes until desired doneness). Brush veal with its own drippings occasionally.

In a pan, saute bacon in butter, add spring onion, put a little chicken stock and cook slowly. Add one spoon of butter to thicken slightly. Season with salt and pepper

Potato Boulangeres

Wash the potatoes with skin thoroughly. Half-cook the potatoes in chicken broth with a little olive oil. Season with salt and pepper. Remove potatoes from the broth then press with a fork to flatten it. Sear potatoes in olive oil with garlic cloves and a little bit of bacon. Add a little veal stock and finish in the oven.

Fricasse of Mushroom

Saute mushrooms in olive oil. When mushrooms are almost cooked, remove from pan. On the same pan, sweat shallots and return mushrooms. Season with salt and pepper. Add a little parsley.

Sauce

Add a little butter to the veal stock. Add salt and pepper. Add few drops of truffle oil.

Remove the meat of the veal from the bone and slice to serving portions. Place the sliced veal on a platter. Place potatoes around the platter and top with the bacon-spring onion mixture. Place fricassee of mushroom around the platter as well. Serve the sauce on the side.

All recipes serve four.

Apahap Fillet Cooked à la Plancha with Crispy Skin, Garlic Chips, Fresh Basil and Tapenade

1 kg *apahap* (local sea bass)
100 g garlic, peeled and sliced thinly
150 ml olive oil
150 g tapenade (mixture of black olives, capers, olive oil)
100 g fresh basil, cleaned
400 ml olive oil
Salt and pepper

Scale and clean the fish. Don't remove the skin. Remove the bones and fillet the fish. Keep fish in the fridge.

In a pan, cook sliced garlic in olive oil without browning it. Season fish with salt and pepper.

On a very hot *plancha* or sauté pan, put a little oil, place the fish skin down on the *plancha* and press it for 15 seconds.

When the skin is crisp, turn the fish over and cook on other side until done. Set aside and keep warm.

Spread the tapenade on the platter. Place the fish on top of the tapenade. Place a little basil on the garlic-olive oil mixture then pour this mixture on top of the fish. Season with a little rock salt. Garnish with basil leaves.

Cappuccino of Porcini Broth Served with Lobster

1 kg frozen cepe mushrooms
600 g lobster tails, steamed until half cooked, shocked in ice water
½ liter cream
10 pc shallots, chopped
1 pc celery, chopped
20 g dry cepe, powdered
100 g butter
2 tbsp croutons
Salt and pepper

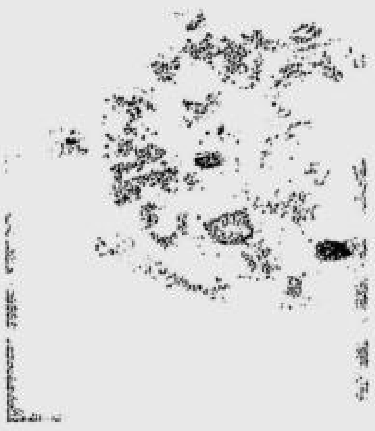
Place frozen cepe mushroom in 5 liters of water. Cook slowly with cover for 6 hours. Strain cepe mushroom from broth and chop.

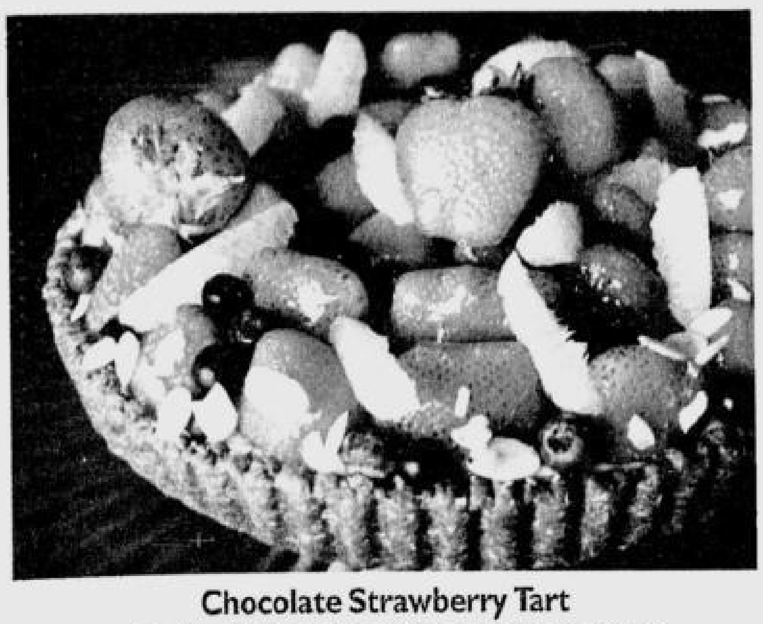
In a pan, sweat cepe mushroom, shallots and celery in butter. Add mushroom broth and let cook for 30-40 minutes.

Blend soup with a hand blender or in a blender. Add cream and mix again with hand blender or blender. Strain the mixture. If the mixture is too thick, add more mushroom broth.

Remove lobster tails from shell and sear the lobster in hot pan with butter to cook through. Slice into medallions and set aside.

Place the medallion of lobster in a soup plate. Pour the soup mixture around the lobster. Sprinkle cepe powder and croutons around the soup.





Chocolate Strawberry Tart with Fresh Strawberries and Blueberries

Makes 2 9-inch round tarts

For the dough: Chocolate Sugar Dough
125 g butter
125 g sugar
300 g all-purpose flour
25 g cocoa powder
6 egg yolks
50 g unsweetened desiccated coconut flakes

Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy using a mixer with a paddle attachment.

Sift flour and cocoa powder.

Add yolks gradually until incorporated. Then add sifted flour, cocoa powder and coconut flakes.

Mix at low speed. If some of the flour cakes are around the bottom and sides of the bowl, stop the machine and push the flour into the center with rubber spatula, then start the machine again until dough comes together.

To facilitate the eventual rolling out of the dough, flatten each piece with the palm of your hand and form it into a round pad. Using a rolling pin, roll into 10-mm or desired thickness. Let it rest for 20 minutes before baking. Bake at 350°F until done.

For filling: Pastry Cream
1 each vanilla bean
1 c cream
1 c milk
120 g sugar
¼ c egg yolks
50 g ornstarch
30 g butter

Cut open the vanilla bean lengthwise and scrape out the seeds. Combine vanilla seeds and pod with the cream and milk with half the sugar in a 2-quart saucepan and bring to a simmer.

Beat together egg yolks, half the sugar and cornstarch with a wire whisk until smooth. Slowly pour half of the simmering milk, stirring constantly with wire whisk. Pour this mixture back into the saucepan with the remaining milk and stir until thoroughly blended and smooth.

Place the saucepan over medium heat and bring the pastry cream to a boil, stirring constantly with a wire whisk. Pastry cream should be thick. Reduce the heat and continue boiling, stirring constantly with wire whisk for about 5 minutes.

Remove saucepan from the heat and strain pastry cream through a sieve into a bowl.

Add butter, stirring constantly. This also helps cool the pastry cream.

Cover with plastic wrap to avoid forming a skin.

Assembly:
1 pint fresh strawberries (or any berries in season)
1 pint fresh blueberries (or any berries in season)
½ c sliced almonds, toasted
2 pc oranges, cut into segments

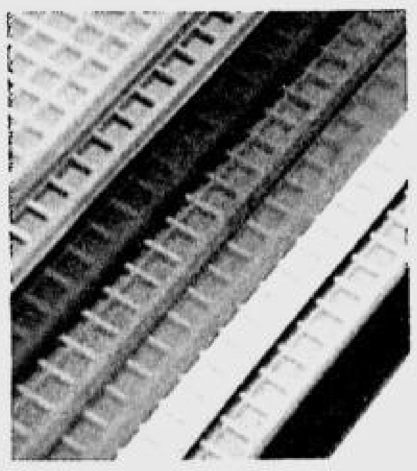
Place baked and cooled tart shell on work surface. Do not remove for tart pan.

Place cooled pastry cream in piping bag and pipe onto tart shell.

Garnish with fresh strawberries, blueberries, sliced almonds and orange segments. Remove from tart pan and serve.

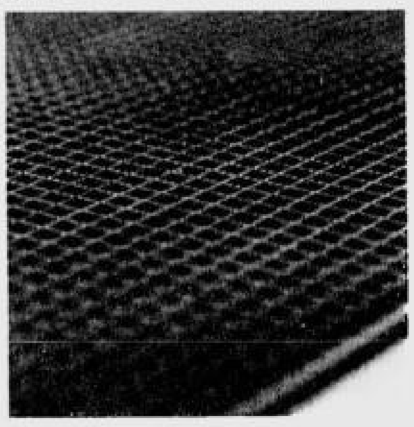
Chef J recommends

Cook like a pro, or just better, with these locally available kitchen tools



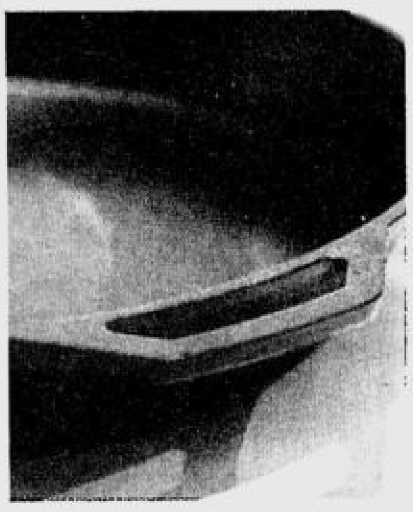
The Grid-Potholder, Trivet, Jar Opener by Silicone Zone

Get a grip! Save your hands and kitchen counter from nasty burns. The Grid is made of silicone which can withstand up to 675°F. Easy to clean and pretty, too. Comes in a variety of colors to match your mood. P490 for two-tone, P430 for single color. Available at Santi's and Rustan's.



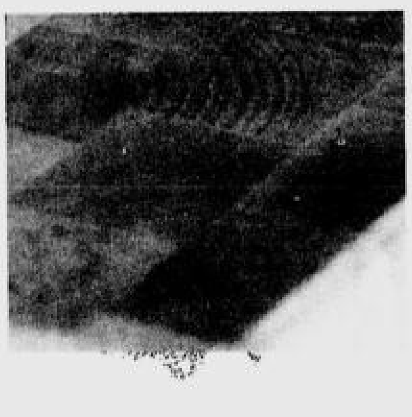
The Grid-Chopping Board Mat by Silicone Zone

Work like a pro and keep the chopping board stable and slip-free with The Grid-Chopping Board Mat (P1,800). Will absorb shocks while you're chopping away and keeps the juices from your prime rib from messing up your table. Available at Santi's.



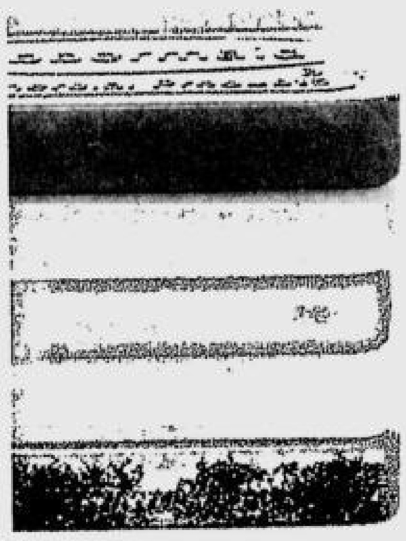
Lodge Logic Seasoned Cast Iron Cookware

Old-school cookware that will never go out of style, this heavy cast-iron cookware absorbs heat to ensure your steak gets that delicious crust. Seasoned so it's the original nonstick pan. Don't wash it with soap, just hot water and a stiff brush. Comes in a variety of sizes. For the 17-inch pan it's P4,595. Available at Gourdo's.



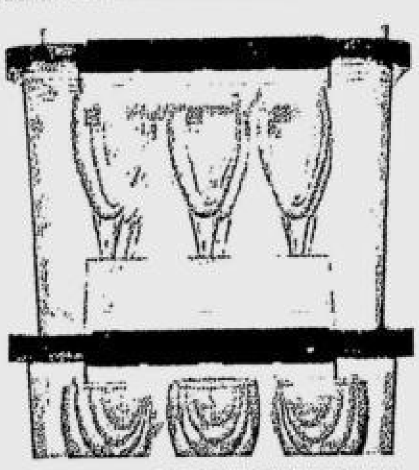
Calphalon Chopping Blocks

Beautiful hardwood cutting board, perfect for carving your prime rib or setting your cheese. The end grain cutting surface makes it gentle on your knives and is a looker. Dimensions are 16"x14"x2"; P4,110. Available at Gourdo's.



Rubbermaid Commercial-Color-Coded Plastic Chopping Boards

Get with the program! Professional kitchens use different chopping boards for different products to control nasty cross-contamination of bacteria. White for dairy, blue for fish and seafoods, yellow for cooked foods, red for raw meat and green for produce. More importantly, it will keep your foods from tasting all like garlic. Dimensions are 20"x15"x½"; P1,650 each. Available at Gourdo's.



Bormioli Rocco Stemware

A party in a box! Stemware that comes with its own plastic box for easy storage and transport. You no longer have an excuse for drinking wines in the wrong glass, no matter where you may be. Available in 17.5 cl Flute, 24.5 cl Red Wine and 19 cl White Wine. P1,800 for a set of 12 glasses. Available at Gourdo's.

PHOTOS: JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Foodies' little black book

Here's a guide to our favorite food places outside Manila

By Malu A. Gamboa
Contributor

FRIENDS ALWAYS ASK US FOR OUR restaurant recommendations outside of Manila. Here's a list of our favorites. Keep this guide handy for your next trip.

Hong Kong

1. **Crystal Jade.** It has several branches, but we like the one on the 2/F of the IFC Train Station, Central. A favorite lunch place that's always so busy, so make sure you get in before 11:30 a.m. or after 2 p.m. Xiao Long Bao, Dan Dan Mein (Spicy Szechuan Noodles). Cheap and excellent.

2. **The Press Room.** New York-style bistro with good Bloody Marys, French onion soup, burgers, fruits de mer platters, huge steaks, comfort food. 108 Hollywood Road, Central; tel. 852-252-53444.

3. **Hutong.** Crispy lamb ribs and spicy soft shell crabs, with fabulous floor-to-ceiling views. 28/F, 1 Peking Road, Kowloon; tel. 852-3428-8342.

4. **Water Margin.** Hutong's little sister serves a similar menu in a less sophisticated but no less stylish atmosphere. Order its Beggar's Chicken 24 hours before, best ever. 12/F Food Forum, Times Square Mall, Causeway Bay; tel. 852-3102-0088.

5. **Gough 40.** Small restaurant in NoHo, serving delicious foie gras, lobsters. All good and fresh. I read that a former wine sommelier of the Mandarin Oriental owns this place. 40 Gough Street, Central; tel. 852-2851-8498.

6. **Tonkitchi.** Tonkatsu and Ebi Furai—best ever outside Japan. My friends Jay and Bambi Sy recommended this place. There's usually a line outside, but it's worth the wait! Succulent breaded pork cutlets with crispy coating and jumbo prawns done the same way. If you can't decide, get the combo platter. Podium 4, World Trade Center, 280 Gloucester Road, Causeway Bay; tel 852-2577-6617.

Tokyo

1. **Seryna.** My family was convinced that we had the best meal of our lives here, so we went back the very next day for more of the same! Go for lunch when prices are slashed by half. The Lunch Set menus of Sukiyaki, Ishiyaki Steak or Shabu-shabu (Beef or Crab) at about Y5000 (P2,000) are absolutely memorable. 3-12-2, Roppongi, Minatoku; tel. 813-3402-1051.

2. **Torigin.** No frills Yakitori place off Ginza. Must-haves are the grilled chicken, ginkgo nuts, chicken balls, asparagus with bacon and kamameshi. Cheap and good. 5-5-7 Ginza Chuo-ku; tel. 813-3571-3333.

3. **Michiba.** For fans of the original Iron Chef TV show, this is your chance to experience firsthand the uniquely seasonal cooking of legendary Iron Chef Roksaburo Michiba. Word of warning: Little or no English is spoken and the menu is in Japanese. Bring a local to guide you and take the Kaiseki Set Menu, whatever it is. You can't go wrong with it! Kanematsu Bldg. 8F 6-9-9 Ginza, Chuo-ku; tel. 813-5537-6300.

4. **Momo Paradise.** All you can eat Shabu-Shabu or Sukiyaki or both. Doesn't serve super high-quality beef, plus the place is hard to find, noisy and bustling with Shibuya's *bagets* crowd... But hey, you can't beat it for Y1500 (P600). Udagawacho 31-2, Shibuya Beam 6F, Shibuya-ku; tel. 813-3461-2941.

Cebu

1. **Gustavian.** Country-style deli setting with fresh baked bread and extensive deli selection. The mussels in white wine sauce with crisp baguette is a must! Save room for the divine English Trifle. 1 Paseo Saturnino Maria Luisa Road, Banilad; tel. 63-32-344-7653.

2. **Tinder Box, Aziza, Z.** Deli, café, wine cellar, fine dining, champagne bar and cigar divan all in one space. Beautiful design by Ed Calma and Kenneth Cobonpue. Archbishop Reyes corner Bauhinia Drive, Banilad; tel. 63-32-234-1681.

3. **Lemongrass.** Casual lunch at the Ayala Mall. Pork ribs, Phad Thai, curries, Vietnamese spring rolls and a delicious citrus drink that you order by the pitcher. Owned and operated by chef Raki Urbina of Laguna Café fame. He's a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America and did his research for the café in Bangkok, Chang Mai and Saigon. A delicious bargain by any standard! 1/F Entertainment Center, Ayala Center; tel. 63-32-233-8601.

4. **Giuseppe's.** A favorite Italian restaurant serving excellent salads, pastas and pizzas. Try the eel risotto and the lamb. Casual and unpretentious. Paseo Saturnino, Maria Luisa Road, Banilad; tel. 63-32-343-9901.

5. **Abaca.** Resort ambience serving very good pizzas, salads and steaks. Must call to reserve or you will not be allowed entry. Punta Engaño Road, Mactan; tel. 63-32-495-8456.

Beijing

1. **Made In China.** Traditional Beijing dishes served in an open-style kitchen. We should have had our Peking duck here instead of the other famous touristy place. Lovely posh setting. Grand Hyatt Hotel; tel. 86-10-8518-1234 ext. 3608.

2. **Green T. House.** Very artsy place with fabulous lighting. Start with the appetizer with pears, walnuts and blue cheese. Then share the pork spareribs and smoked tea duck. Don't let the menu intimidate you. Spectacular food presentation. Gongti Xi Lu 6; tel. 86-10-6552-8310.

3. **Bellagio.** Have dessert here after dinner at Green T. House. Serves every variation of the *halo-halo*, Chinese style, of course. Xiaoyun Lu 35, Beijing; tel. 86-10-8451-9988.

4. **LAN.** Come for dinner and/or drinks with your camera fully charged—this is photo shoot heaven. This Philippe Starck-designed restaurant and bar is a standout with wow Baccarat chandeliers everywhere, 20-plus function rooms for two to many, all unique. 4/F Twintowers B-12, Jianguowenmai Avenue Chaoyang District.

Shanghai

1. **Ding Tai Fung.** Taiwanese restaurant in Xintiandi. Fantastic Xiao Long Bao. Shop 11A, Building 6, 2/F, under the Alexander Health Club, Xintiandi South Bloc, tel. 86-21-6385-8378.

2. **Laan Na Thai.** For an "old villa experience," and finally Thai food after many days of Chinese, go to this beautiful restaurant in the Ruijin Hotel complex. The garden is a great place for drinks at sunset (on Ruijin No. 2 Road). Located right above the popular and stylish lounge, Face Bar. Building 4, Ruijin Guest House; south of Fuxing Zhong Lu; tel. 86-21-6466-4328.

3. Best place for dinner and/or drinks with views are on **the Bund: Laris,** tel. 86-21-6321-9922. **Glamour Bar,** tel. 86-21-6350-9988. **New Heights,** tel. 86-21-63210909.

4. **Barbarrosa.** For sunset drinks. Very near the Museum of Contemporary Art, a small, fun and interesting space that can be done in 20 minutes. 231 Nanjing Xi Lu, People's Park; tel. 86-21-6318-0220.

5. **Shintori.** For Japanese food, located in an impressively chic industrial space. Ask to be seated in the middle of the dining room (on high tables and chairs) or on the mezzanine and watch the open-style kitchen at work. Have a cocktail at **People 7** right beside and check out the interesting door. 803 Julu Lu, by Fumin Lu; tel. 86-21-5404-5252.

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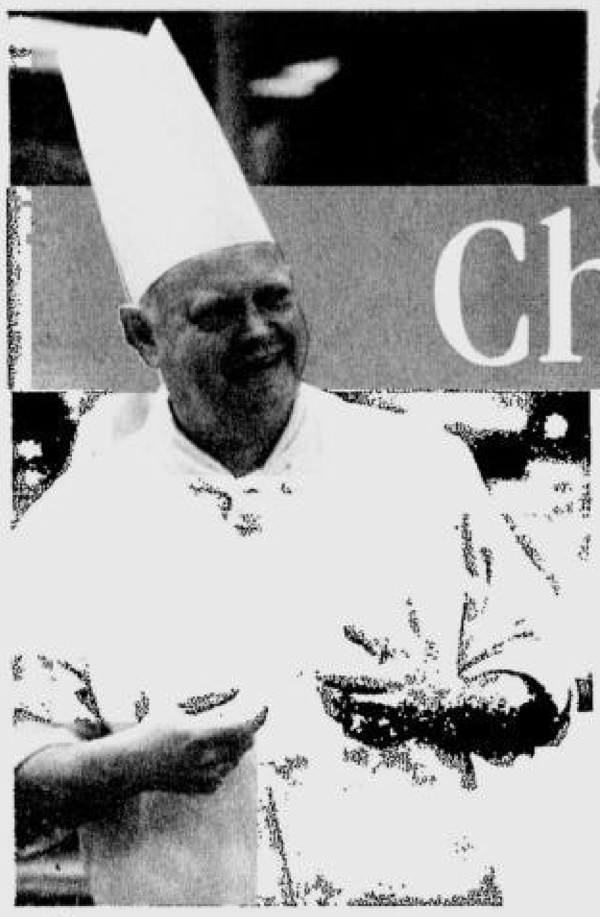
MAKATI . SHANGRI-LA PLAZA

Chef at 37,000 feet

Ensuring all the food served aboard PAL is hot, delicious and satisfying is quite a tough mission, and the chef has been doing it for over 20 years



CHEF Ian Hall Mckenzie PHOTOS: RYAN LIM

AN APPETIZER Business Class

ARROZ Caldo and Fried Tofu for Business Class

By J. Gamboa

A FEW MONTHS AGO, CHEF IAN Hall McKenzie, executive chef of Philippine Airlines, asked chef Fernando Aracama and myself to make a few Filipino menus for PAL Inflight Catering.

Fernando and I jumped at the opportunity. It would be so cool to have our menus served on planes. Besides, we have always wondered how food is prepared for airline passengers, and this was our chance to find out.

Chef Ian arranged a short seminar on airline catering for us—the do's and don'ts version—including a viewing of their current menu fresh off the production line. The meals were neatly and hygienically packed and compartmentalized in foil trays, then heated for 15 minutes in the $10,000-combination steam oven (the same one on the planes).

It was quite a lot of information to digest, and frankly there were so many rules and procedures to contend with, that a seemingly simple dish like Beef Caldereta with Vegetables and Rice became as complicated to prepare for the plane as a Lobster Thermidore on land.

Attractive dishes

For each main meal, there should be a protein source (meat or fish) with sauce, starch (potatoes or rice) and a vegetable dish. Before assembly, all these foods are to portion sizes, precooked and blast-chilled to just above freezing point.

For Economy Class meals, the assembly should only take five steps or movements to ensure efficiency and speed. For First and Business Classes, up to eight steps are permitted, allowing their dishes to be a little more "special," sometimes containing additional items such as extra vegetables or an edible garnish.

Once the food items have been placed onto the serving dishes, these are again chilled or "cold-soaked" in the huge walk-in refrigerators for at least two hours before being transported to the aircraft.

Once on the aircraft, the flight attendants transfer the foods to their ovens for reheating. This takes approximately 15 minutes. Then it's chow time!

First Class and Business Class passengers get a special bonus: flight attendants specially plate their meals on china after heating for that restaurant-fresh look!

But that's getting ahead of the story. Before all that can take place, there's the challenge of coming up with the menu, taking into consideration pas-

CHEF/2

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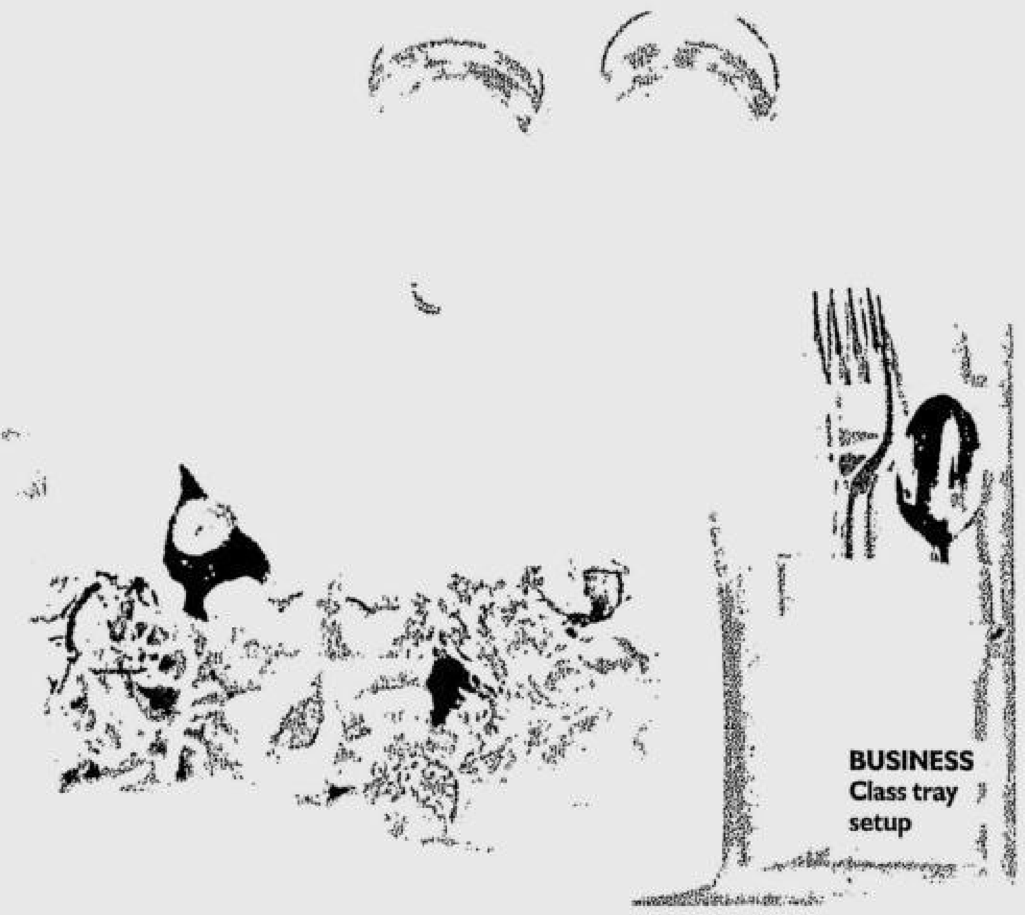


BUSINESS Class tray setup

Chef at 37,000 feet

From page 1

senger preferences and the limitations of the galley and the crew.

Aside from making sure that the dishes selected would be attractive to the passengers, the dishes should be able to reheat well, so don't expect anything fried and crispy on board. The steam in the oven makes sure that your crispy fried chicken would end up not quite so.

Chef Ian told us that braised dishes like *kare-kare*, *caldereta*, and *pochero* work well. No bones in the food, too, just to keep the passengers safe from a broken tooth or any worse scenarios. Filipinos prefer pork and fish, and lamb is a no-no since only a select number appreciate it.

Also, if you serve a local dish like *embotido* or *longganisa*, you better make sure that it tastes like something that came from Pampanga's Best, otherwise you will definitely hear it from the passengers.

Our introduction to the world of in-flight catering made us realize that it truly takes a special chef to get the job done. It's no joke having to take into consideration each and every detail, sourcing out sustainable quality ingredients from all over the world, producing food in Manila and the 20-plus outbound kitchens (Tokyo, San Francisco, Los Angeles, etc.), training flight attendants on proper food service, formulating menus that will cater to both VIPs and our VVVIPs—the OFWs.

Ensuring that all the food served aboard PAL is hot, delicious and satisfying is quite a tough mission. And that is what chef Ian McKenzie has been doing for more than 20 years. And mind you, he does it really well.

He's our chef at 37,000 feet!

What is in-flight catering?

Airline catering is unique. There are no seasons on board an aircraft. Seasons are passing by when one goes on long flights. You enter the cabin in one country or state on a summer, and after having a meal you enter another country or state where it is winter.

With in-flight food operations, you handle many types of food and beverages that come from land-based kitchens. Some are near the airport but a few are 30 minutes away or more. The catering manager, chef, cooks and store persons who handle and cook the food never or very rarely come into contact with the consumer of their cooked repast.

Catering operations and kitchens can serve an aircraft that lands in quite a number of countries. The food may be cooked in Manila and consumed way over India and beyond.

The caterer follows specifications laid down by the airline. He agrees to the guidelines and sets charges per meal and flight handling. Hotel kitchens in general tend to be hot. However, airline catering operations have environs that operate at temperatures from 12-16°C.

The kitchen employees are dressed from top to toe to protect the food from contamination and foreign objects, such as stray hair.

Oh, by the way, where do you find a restaurant that cooks meals, serves them above the clouds, then the plates and sundry items are scraped and dumped in some other kitchen 2,000 miles away?

The subject matter is vast and complex. To prepare food for an airline, train or ship is not really any different from a hotel or restaurant. The logistics are just greater. Overall, one must rely on the team—from grower to market to kitchen to the sky.

How many meals do you prepare a day?

Eleven thousand meals a day.

What are the biggest challenges in producing airline food?

The biggest challenge is planning a menu aligned with the airline's vision and then executing it. The menu is the key to all things. Planning a menu also faces the ever-new challenges of trends and ethnographic or local cuisine. After the menu planning comes the sourcing of food and also getting the quantity needed in conditions safe for consumption.

Ensuring freshness from farm to plane is a long and arduous journey for the food items. In-flight meals are subjected to a constant array of hands, dark rooms, chillers, small plates in tight spaces, then on to trucks and up to the aircraft, where the onboard guest service team takes over. Regenerated at 35,000 feet, the food has to handle well during turbulence.

The hot meal can oftentimes be left in the oven longer (though no fault of the flight attendants) as everyone needs to be belted down. Meanwhile, the meals are getting stewed. The caterer ends up getting blamed! That's why, as menu planners, we try to design robust food like braised and slow cooked dishes that produce tender meats.

What's the most popular in-flight meal?

The choice between beef or chicken depends on what direction one is flying. The general preferences are beef when going to Japan and Korea, pork to China, chicken to Southeast Asia and mutton and lamb to the Middle East.

In general, beef is the front runner. It is also one of the biggest budget items in any in-flight kitchen. Seafood is popular but nowhere near as popular as meat products. Culture really dictates what we eat.

And the most important tool in an in-flight kitchen?

Scales, weighing scales.

Have you had any funny experiences on a plane?

On an inaugural flight from Bali, I was escort chef on the outbound flight. We had a large cake which was to be cut by the guest of honor on board. With all the to-do and speeches over, I was to push the cake from the tail to the pointy end.

I got the nod from the boss, meaning "okay, the cake." Then I discovered that we had left the cake in Bali. As I could not parachute to the kitchen, I pushed the trolley up the aisle with cheese and fruits instead and said, "The cake got off-loaded due to upgrades." We all had a good laugh.

What's the most extravagant or complicated dish you ever served on an airplane?

Soufflé Grand Marnier. Working as onboard chef, you can do many things provided the planning is done correctly and the food is oven-able. In some aircraft, a skillet and rice cooker are also available on board. Another extravagant item I remember is risotto with shaved white truffle.

And the weirdest request for in-flight food?

Stir-fried grasshoppers!

Who's the most famous person you've ever cooked for?

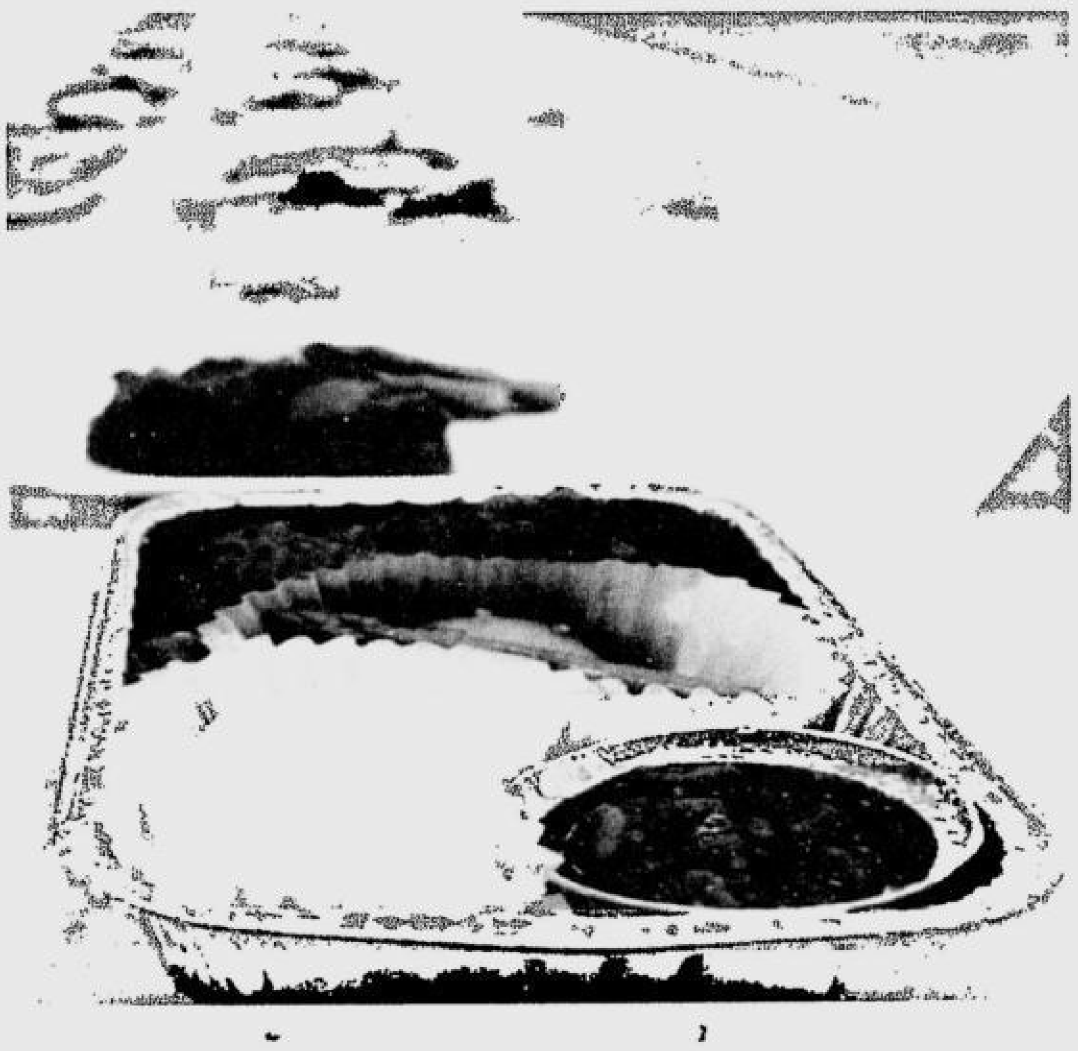
I have cooked for many government leaders, generally when a country's senior leaders need feeding on board. We look after their likes and avoid their dislikes. My most memorable lunch would be the one with Cat Stevens when he visited Malaysia in 2000, where I personally cooked for and ate with him.

Your best tip for travelers?

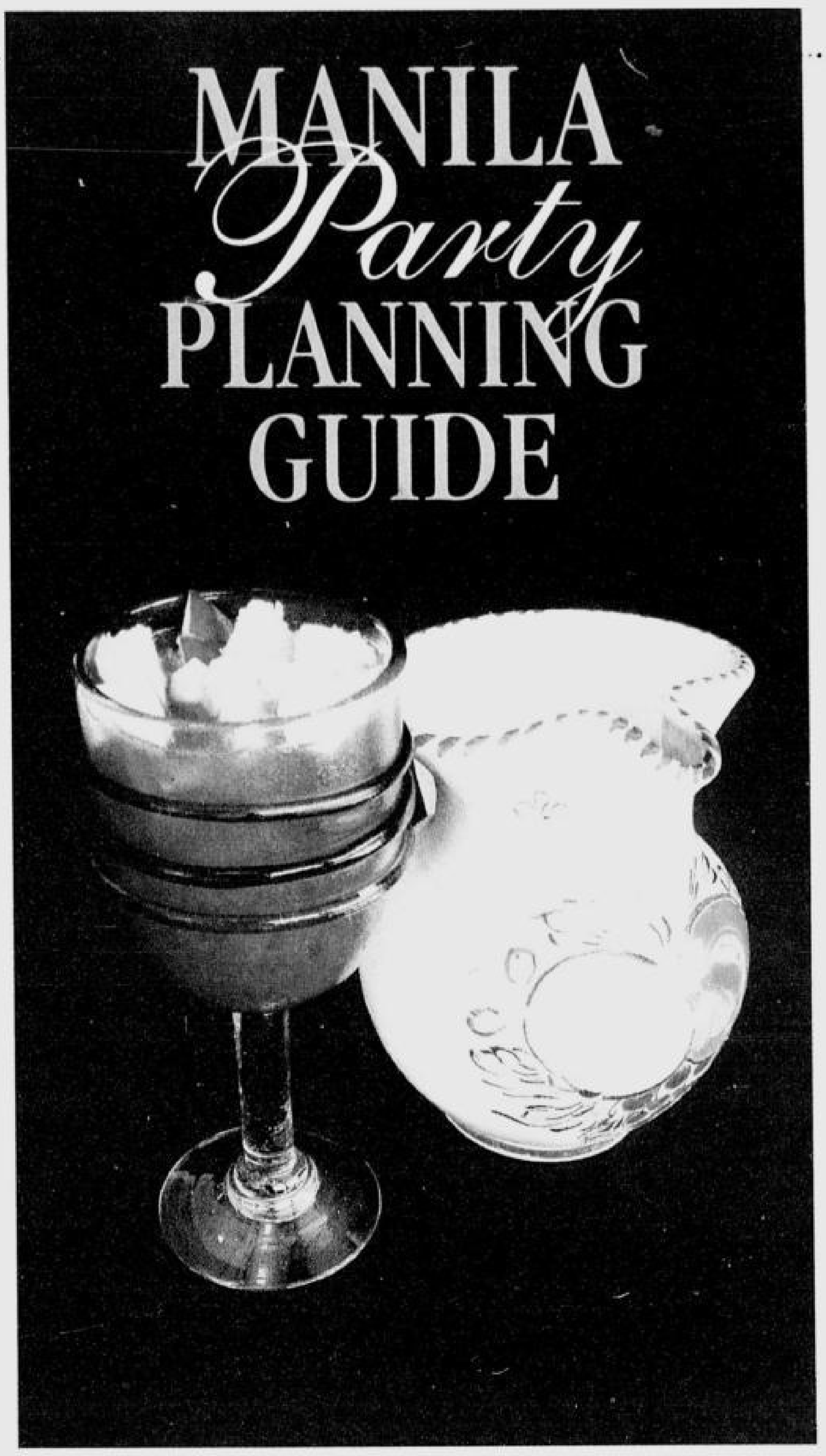
Travel light, eat light, go easy on the alcohol, drink plenty of water, and sleep or read a good book.

Ian Hall McKenzie

Chef Ian Hall McKenzie was Commis de Cuisine at Savoy Hotel in London (1968-69), and at age 19 the youngest Chef d' Partie at Gleneagles Hotel, a five-star golf resort in Scotland (1971-72). He was the executive chef for China Airlines, Malaysian Airlines and Ansett Australia before joining Philippine Airlines. He also taught at Tafe Regency School in Adelaide, Australia, and won the club service award Toques Blanche (Australia) in 1991.



MANILA *Party* PLANNING GUIDE



ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

PHOTO: ANGELO BARRETTO

By Malu A. Gamboa
Contributor

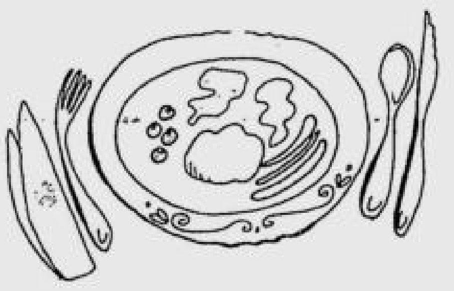
ONLY GOT A FEW DAYS to plan an extravaganza? No worries. All can be done in a day.

First things first, you must have a theme. Disco Fever? Spanish Fiesta? Denim and Diamonds? Kung Hei Fat Choi? Cirque du Soleil? Marie Antoinette? It all starts here. Planning the appropriate venue, food, drinks, décor, entertainment and giveaways will then flow.

You need only concern yourself with these.

The venue

Celebrating at restaurants is the easiest way to go. Ask for a private room or a section just for you. My faves: Antonio's, Apartment 1B, Chef Laudico, Elbert's Steak Room, Embassy Cuisine 2/F, Lily, Lolo Dad's, Martini, Mi Piace, Nuvo 2/F, People's Palace outdoor, Red, Shang Palace, aside from Cirkulo, Milky Way Banquet Hall and Tsukiji, of course.



The food

If you choose not to entertain in a restaurant and can go all out, call Cibo di M (tel. 9119970), Via Mare (8908023), La Tasca (8979749) or Le Soufflé (8977516).

Then make yourself a cocktail and leave the rest to the expert hands of Margarita, Ella, Emi or Jessie. They are the best.

Another favorite caterer who cooks herself and can sing, too, is Josephine Melrose (8506041/8424779). She can design your invitations as well.

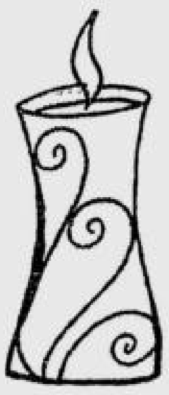
Alternately, you could order takeout from your favorite restaurants. Send them your serving plates for that home-cooked feel. Many will lend their dishes so food will be ready to be placed on your buffet table.

Fast-food also works. KFC, dimsum, pizza and donuts on your heirloom china and silver often do the trick. Always have lots of chips, nuts and popcorn all over the space. Some chocolate would be nice, too (Chef Buddy Trinidad's Park Avenue Desserts for wow truffles and mini profiteroles: 8346636).

The bar

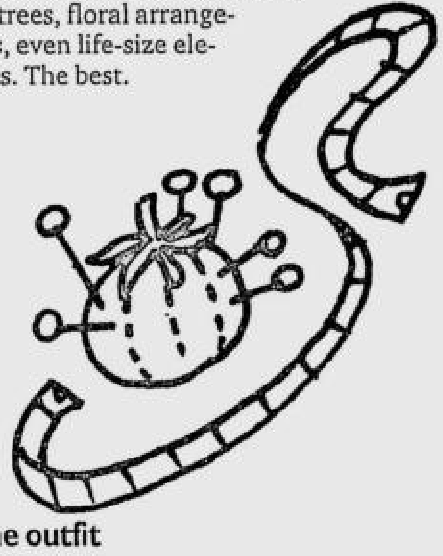
Only serve the good stuff or you'll be sorry in the morning. It would be nice to have sparkling, red and white, vodka, scotch, lots of Coke Light and water, of course. Dalandan Soda and cranberry juice will thrill even the abstainers. Don't forget the ice.

While you're at it, slice some lemons for garnish. For your Spanish Fiesta, try Cirkulo's Sangria recipe which can be served on the rocks or thrown in a blender for a frozen aaahh.



Décor

Speed-dial Anton Barretto (7299221) and ask him to transform your venue to make you and your guests go WOW. This guy does wonders. He's stocked with furniture, Cereo candles, lanterns, drapes, giant trees, floral arrangements, even life-size elephants. The best.



The outfit

You'll certainly find "it" at the House of Laurel (8955688) if there isn't enough time for Rajo to make you a fab new frock. Modern Mythology for indie (109 Gamboa Street, Makati, above Nail Spa—get your toes done and shop at the same time). New Yorker for vintage. Lulu Tan-Gan for resort glam. Silk Cocoon for red carpet.

The flowers

If you are in Martha Stewart mode, get yourself to Market! Market! (no need to go to Dangwa) and go nuts. They have it all. A favorite is the lady beside Lord Stowe's who sells potted orchids for P150 (note: giveaway alert!). Have an egg tart while you're there.

Or, leave it to the experts: Toni Parsons' 517 Flower Company 892-5130; Antonio Garcia's Mabolo 893-5689; Judith Berenguer-Testa's Floriade 893-8862/812-4210.

Entertainment

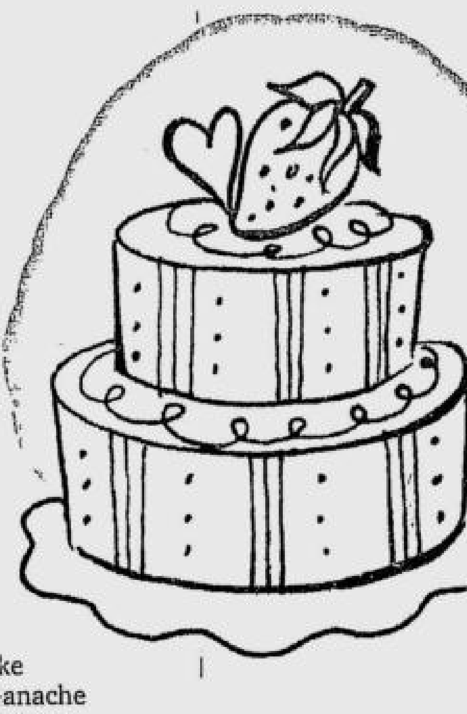
Party Perks (7266695/7249314) and Jelly Bellies (7247695/6795) can get you fire-eaters, contortionists, clowns, magicians, elephants, party hosts, belly dancers and hula girls.

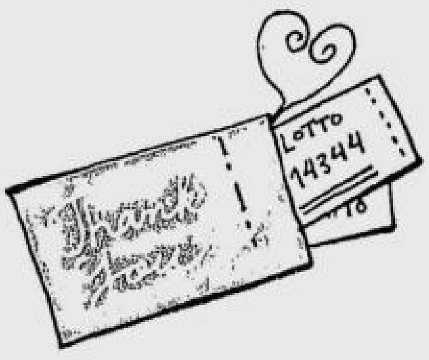
Call Arnold Trajano to be your personal DJ (0917-9221839). Romie Jacinto (flutist) 7518400/0916-7453934 can provide lovely dinner music. For a Casablanca theme, ring Dex Espina (pianist) 0915-4461286 and he'll play it again, Sam.

The cake

Marta (8423836/7750787) and Sonja (8560308) can make you the prettiest and yummiest cakes and cupcakes (note: giveaway alert!).

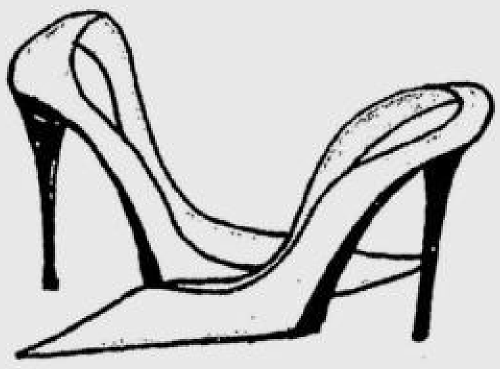
Every party is better with the Frozen Brazo de Mercedes of Dasma (8438086), the Yulo Strawberry Shortcake and Mudpie of Forbes (8124961/8108078), the Cuerva Mango Torte of San Lo (8170200), Costa Brava Cakes of Bel-Air (8966872), Casuy Sans Rival and Blueberry Cheesecake (8971845) and Chocolate Ganache Cake (8982280) of Palm Village, and Roshan's Lemon Torte (6317786).





The giveaways

Everyone should go home with a little treat for getting all dolled up. Lotto tickets in *ampao* envelopes (note: text everyone the winning combination in the morning), Chia pets, Cereo Candles, Bench Colonia, Greenhills pearls, shades from 168, islanders from SM.



Some final points

1. Invite by text. Pinoys do RSVP by text.
2. Always expect 20 percent not to show up even if they said they would. No worries, this makes surprise guests welcome.
3. Don't wear those fab new killer stilettos. If you must, bring a trusty pair as back-up.
4. Eat before you party. Not fun and not pretty to have the host passed out too early.
5. Make sure you've got your own camera plus two reliable paparazzi to properly document the party. (Note: E-mail the photos to your party posse the next day.)
6. When you get home and are still able to text, send your party people a thanks for coming, thanks for the gifts, and a little post-party analysis that will make them smile in the morning.
7. Celebrate birthdays, anniversaries and milestones. No ifs and buts about this.

Malu A. Gamboa manages Cirkulo and Milky Way Restaurants with her brother J. and her mom Julie, who started it all with the Milky Way on Aguado Street (near Malacañang) in 1962. When she isn't planning events at the restaurants, Malu spends her time promoting Filipino artists as a board member of the Asian Cultural Council (Philippines) and the Tanghalang Pilipino.

Sangria

Makes 8 glasses

1 bottle red wine (750 ml)
1 bottle Sprite (300 ml)
1 tbsp orange concentrate
1 tbsp Grenadine syrup
1 tbsp sugar syrup
Ice, as needed

Mix all ingredients together in large pitcher. Top with diced apples and oranges for garnish.

TERRINE of Suckling Pig with Tomato Seeds

BACALAO with Red and Green Pepper "Caviar," Choricero Pepper Oil and Crispy Garlic

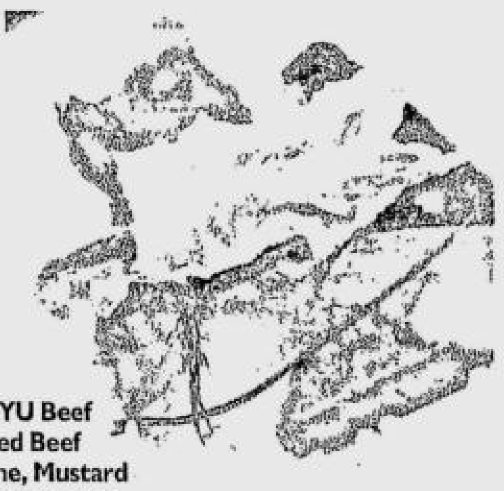
CAULIFLOWER Soup with Clam Jelly

Feast on the Spanish fiesta

Ruta Gastronomica 2007's menu highlights rich flavors of Basque region

By Mawi de Ocampo
Contributor

NOCHE DEL PAIS VASCO AT CIRKULO RESTAURANT KICKED off the 2007 Ruta Gastronomica de España. The fabulous 10-course meal, created by Cirkulo's chef, J. Gamboa, together with Club Punta Fuego's chef, Mikel Arriet, highlighted the rich and distinct flavors of the Basque region.



WAGYU Beef Corned Beef Terrine, Mustard Vinaigrette and Saffron Pop Rice

Each night, guests indulge in a dinner prepared by a pair of chefs—one Spanish and one Filipino. This ultimate gastronomic journey takes you through several regions of Spain like Andalucia, the Mediterranean Coast and the Basque region. Through these dinners, La Camara (Spanish Chamber of Commerce, tel. 8867643) wishes to make more people aware of the wonderful Spanish food and wine that are typical of these Spanish regions.

At the launch, cocktails were passed around and one after the other. Chef J and Chef Mikel's cocktail creations were served: Crema de Coliflor con Gelee de Almejas (Cauliflower Soup with Clam Jelly), Flan de Foie con Confitura de Melocoton (Foie Gras Flan with Peach and Maldon Salt), Gambas en Tinta de Calamar (Gambas in Squid Ink Batter with Orange Zest), Terrina de Lechon con Semillas de Tomate.

The night was off to a fun and festive start—a lot of eating, drinking, conversation and laughter.

Dinner was soon served. It consisted of Terrina de Ternera con "Marshmallow" de Su de Consommé con Arroz Crujente de Azafran (Wagyu Beef Corned Beef Terrine, Mustard Vinaigrette, Saffron Pop Rice), Bacalao "Vizcaina 2007" (Bacalao with Red and Green Pepper "Caviar," Choricero Pepper Oil and Crispy Garlic), Estofado de Carrilleras con Hongos y Roast Beef con Pastel de Patata (Braised Wagyu Beef Cheeks "80 degrees" with Cepes and Roasted US Beef Bistro Fillet with Potato Terrine).

Offering a pause after that fantastic lineup of Wagyu beef and bacalao, the Queso Idiazabal, Queso Roncal y Membrillo was served.

The best seemed to have been saved for last: the Helado de Aceite de Oliva con Torrija Caramelizada y Culis de Tomate, Olivas y Vino Blanco (Olive Oil Ice Cream Torreja de Brioche, Tomato and Olives in White Wine Syrup).

Dessert was followed with coffee, tea and Patxaran, a cold liqueur that may help in the digestion of food.

Noche del Pais Vasco was a night of surprises. From the beautiful and amusing presentation to the exciting combination of colors and flavor, each dish had you wanting for more.

The ever so light flan of foie gras, the cauliflower with clam jelly soup served in tall fluted glasses, the chilled Wagyu beef, the *bacalao* with white wine foam and, of course, the finale of olive oil ice cream with white wine syrup—all turned this dinner into a much welcome and surprising gustatory experience to be remembered.

Ruta Gastronomica is organized by La Camara with the Spanish Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Commerce and the Commercial Office of the Embassy of Spain together with participating chefs.

The culinary fiesta continues on Oct. 11, with Noche de Andalucia at Gaudi, featuring Xandra Cacho and Reggie Aspiras; and on Nov. 15, Noche de la España Mediterránea at Terry Selection (Pasong Tamo) featuring Juan Carlos de Terry and Ariel Manuel.

GAMBAS in Squid Ink Batter with Orange Zest

My KL adventure

Philippine student-chefs savor Malaysia's cuisine and culture at world cooks' forum

By Lamella Joyce M. Santos
Contributor

I WAS ONE OF THE JUNIOR DELEGATES from the Center of Culinary Arts, Manila (CCA), along with Mardi Bautista and EA Tejada to attend the WACS (World Association Of Cooks Societies) Junior Division Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in August.

The four other delegates—Joana Bravo, Siegfrid Cervillon, Leia Felipe and Joanne Lescano—are from the International School of Culinary and Hotel Management (ISCAHM).

By the time we, the CCA team, got there, the opening ceremonies/cocktail dinner was over. When we arrived at the Hotel Maya, the official hotel for the event, we just registered and I finally met Ms Bernice, a very nice lady who organized the event and whom I had kept bugging with questions through e-mails a week before going to Malaysia.

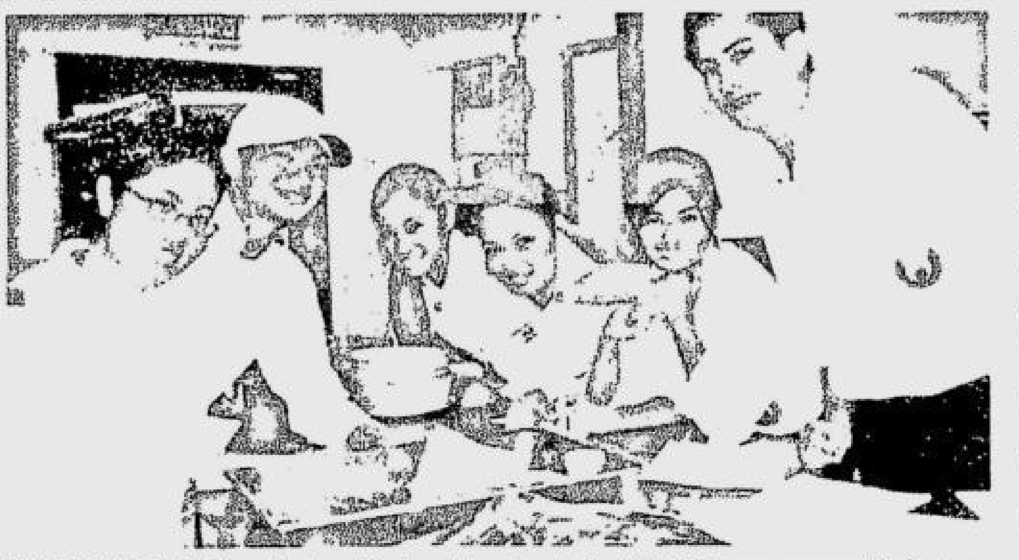
She gave us tons of souvenirs; bags, pens, and of course, the *promdi* inside of me kept jumping for joy!

We were eager to explore the city. The Petronas Towers was just an eight-minute walk from our hotel, so, Mardi, EA and I went there at 11 p.m. We were starving, but we couldn't find any restaurants open at that time. We ended up taking a cab to Chinatown and discovered a cheap restaurant which offered local specialties like *roti* and tea *tarik*.

Junior chefs

It was an interesting first night out in Malaysia. The next day, Aug. 19, the junior forum began and we discussed about the needs of the junior chefs, how to balance life and career, how WACS can help us regarding our careers… we presented it to the senior members so they could take it into action.

There was also a presentation/an overview of Junior Chefs Club per country. Since we don't have a club yet, we made a presentation showcasing Philippine cuisine, and the Filipino talent received enthusiastic applause from the crowd.



THE AUTHOR (left) and other Filipino delegates to the **WACS** forum prepare their own lunch at Taylor's College.

On the second day, the fun started. We had a field trip to the Pudu Market, similar to the wet markets here in the Philippines. After that, we went to Taylor's College, one of the culinary schools in Malaysia, and watched a demo by chef Amir Gan and chef Peter Wright.

We were expecting lunch from the students at Taylor's, but it turned out that we had to cook our own lunch! We made *acar rampai*, *kerabu taugeh*, chicken *satay*, *ayam rendang* and *sagoo gula melaka*. Believe me, they tasted better than they sounded!

I especially loved the *ayam rendang* and the dessert, *sagoo gula melaka*, which is your *sago't gulaman*, only their version has brown sugar syrup and coconut milk. Yum!

Going back to the hotel from the school, we stopped at a durian store. Most of the delegates hadn't tried durian, including me. I had no choice but to try it. The smell was tolerable compared to our durian, which is more pungent. At least I can say I've eaten durian in Malaysia!

After an exhausting day of cooking, we were treated to a seafood dinner in one of the best Chinese restaurants in the country. But it wasn't just dinner, it was *karaoke* night! They knew for a fact that Filipinos are good singers so they kept on giving us the microphone! And the "good" singers that we were, we sang our hearts out!

Other delegates had their fair share of the spotlight, especially chef Ludwig Gaisbauer, one of the senior members who joined us for dinner; he was this big German guy with a very low voice, and he sang "The Lion Sleeps Tonight!" We had a good time that night!

Hydroponics farm

Aug. 21 was the last day of the forum. We went to the hydroponics farm on Genting Island and were taught about the process of planting and harvesting. We had our lunch in the jungle. I was expecting a real jungle with wild animals roaming freely, but the only animal I saw were the stray cats!

After lunch, we had the time to ourselves before we went to the gala dinner. So what did we do? Like what most Filipinos would do, buy *pasalubong* for our loved ones. Of course, we couldn't get enough of the food; we tried their *laksa* and *nasi lemak*. Really good! And I could never leave Malaysia without trying Rotiboy's freshly baked coffee bun. My cousin brought home a bag of Rotiboy's coffee bun last year and it was the best!

THE DURIAN experience

We were full by the time we went to the dinner, but it didn't stop us from trying the food! This was the event that concluded the WACS forum. It allowed us to mingle with other WACS members, juniors and seniors, and say goodbye to newfound friends.

I came to Malaysia to experience their culture and cuisine, but I came home not only with that but with new friends and new knowledge about my chosen career.

AT THE HYDROPONICS Farm on Genting Island

LET US SPELL IT OUT IN BLACK AND WHITE...

MAKE P2125000 in one month

(yes that extra zero is not a typo)

From sprawling residential enclaves to majestic luxury towers reaching towards the sky, Century Properties has been at the forefront of Philippine Real Estate for more than two decades now. We do however recognize that the awards, the thousands of satisfied homeowners, as well as the pioneering concepts and projects that we create are a result of the convergence of the many talented individuals that have become part of our Century family. And it is for this reason that we pay special attention to ensuring that our people are rewarded accordingly.

In fact, our packages are indisputably the best in the industry.

We are on the verge of the biggest property boom in Philippine History, and so as we forge ahead in this exhilarating climate of phenomenal growth, we invite exceptional individuals to take part in the prosperity of these very exciting times.

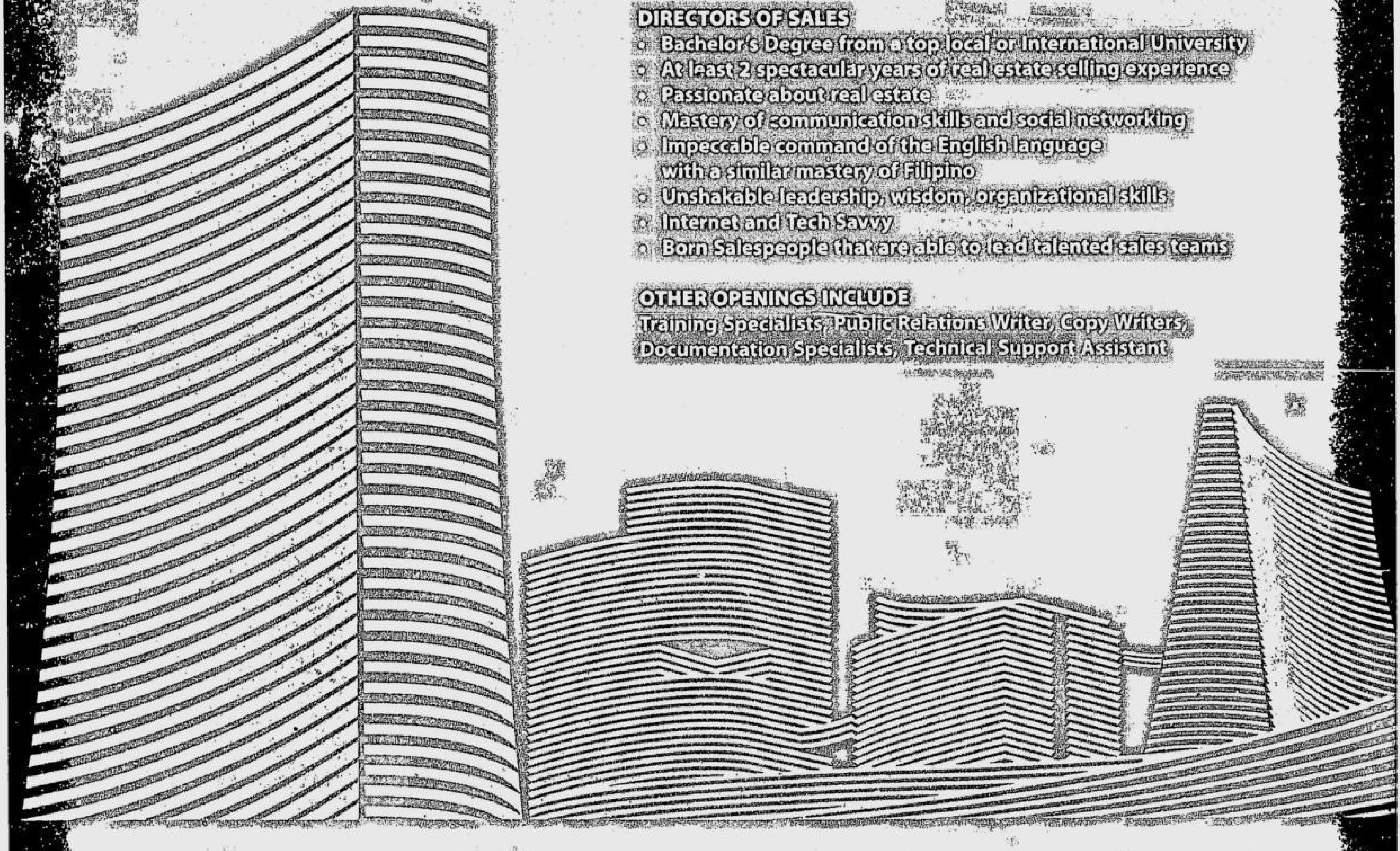
CENTURY
PROPERTIES GROUP
We see things a century ahead.

Currently looking to fill the following positions:

SALES MANAGERS
- Bachelor's Degree from a top local or International University
- Impeccable command of the English language with a similar mastery of Filipino
- Internet and tech savvy
- Real Estate experience is an advantage. However, fresh graduates with extraordinary drive and exceptional talent are welcome to apply.

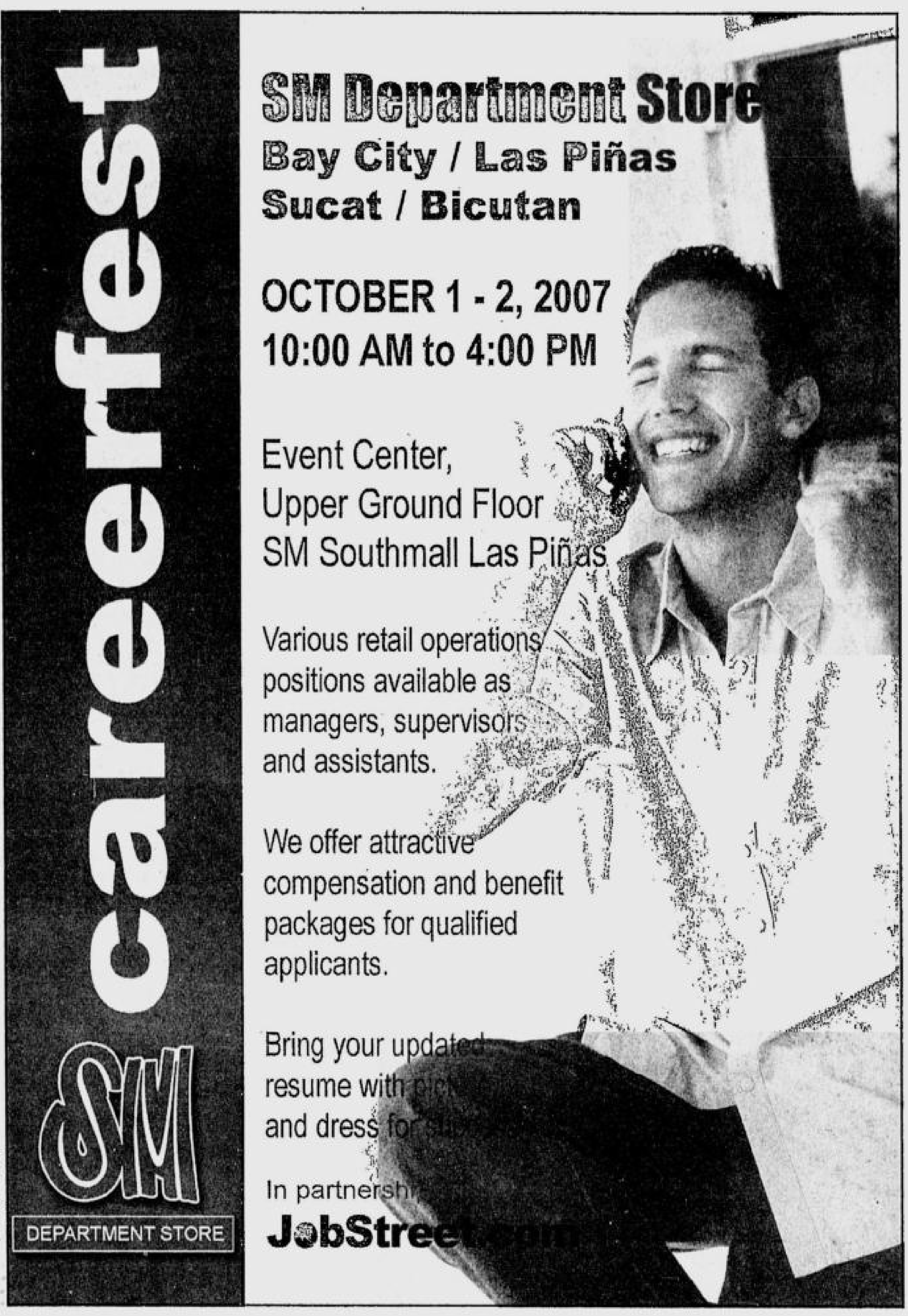
DIRECTORS OF SALES
- Bachelor's Degree from a top local or International University
- At least 2 spectacular years of real estate selling experience
- Passionate about real estate
- Mastery of communication skills and social networking
- Impeccable command of the English language with a similar mastery of Filipino
- Unshakable leadership, wisdom, organizational skills
- Internet and Tech Savvy
- Born Salespeople that are able to lead talented sales teams

OTHER OPENINGS INCLUDE
Training Specialists, Public Relations Writer, Copy Writers, Documentation Specialists, Technical Support Assistant



Email your resume with photo to: careers@century-properties.com

For inquiries, please call: 811-5552 | 894-3024



SM Department Store
Bay City / Las Piñas
Sucat / Bicutan

OCTOBER 1 - 2, 2007
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Event Center,
Upper Ground Floor
SM Southmall Las Piñas

Various retail operations positions available as managers, supervisors and assistants.

We offer attractive compensation and benefit packages for qualified applicants.

Bring your updated
resume with
and dress

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American Express International, Inc.

Invites Applications

for

Technical Assistant
(4 open positions)

As a member of the US Technologies' team in Manila, the incumbents will primarily provide reporting and data entry support in a variety of capacities across the organization.

Responsibilities include:

- update and maintenance of databases accurately
- research to resolve queries on data accuracy and integrity
- manage vendor resource information such as vendor invoice reconciliation
- support financial management activities
- create and maintain procedure and training documentation

REQUIREMENTS:

Successful candidates must adequately meet the following requirements:

- Bachelor's/College Degree, preferably in a Business Course
- Excellent English communication skills, both written and oral
- Skilled in MS Office, including Word and Excel
- Initiative to find solutions to problems and follow-through projects
- Ability to organize and prioritize multiple tasks
- Understanding of basic accounting
- High level of professionalism and relationship skills
- Excellent administrative and organizational skills
- Personal accountability with a high degree of integrity
- Ability to maintain confidentiality
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status.

Please submit applications via Amex website :
AmericanExpress.com

FOREMOST FARMS, INC.

ON LINE INSPECTOR
- Preferably male, must be a graduate of BS Industrial, Chemical or Mechanical Engineering
- Chinese Speaking an advantage

CHEMIST / LAB. ANALYST
- Preferably female, must be a graduate of BS Chemistry
- Chemist position with license and Lab. Analyst position without license

TECHNICAL STAFF / FARM SUPERVISORS
- Must be a graduate of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, BS Agriculture major in Animal Science or Animal Husbandry

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS
- Preferably male, preferably a graduate of BS Medical Technology with License

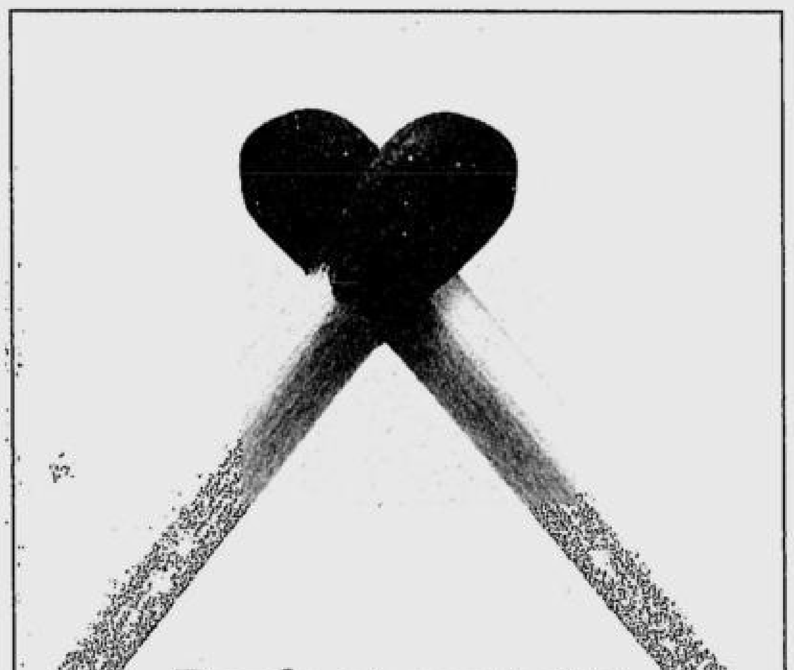
ACCOUNTING STAFF
- Preferably female, must be a graduate of BS Accountancy or any Business course
- Chinese speaking an advantage

CIVIL ENGINEER
- Preferably male, must be a graduate of BS Civil Engineering
- With or without license

Candidates must also possess strong leadership skill and can work w/ minimal supervision. Must possess above average oral & written communication skills. He/she must possess strong analytical and problem solving skills. With related experience an advantage. Fresh graduates are also welcome to apply.

Interested applicants may submit their resumé with 2x2 picture and a copy of your Transcript of Records during Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.) at the:

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
FOREMOST FARMS, Incorporated
448 Evangelista St., Bo. Santolan, Pasig City
645-2081 to 83
Send thru mail at: foremosthr@tri-isys.com
or fax thru 816-5554



Perfect match?

Tall, dark, and handsome advertising shop, specializing in events and below-the-line advertising, seeks **red-hot senior writer;** preferably with at least 4 years of solid experience, and **copy-based associate creative director;** preferably with at least 6 years of solid experience, of conceptualizing and writing for above and below the line advertising. Doesn't have to love long walks on the beach or romantic dinners, but experience in live events is a definite turn-on.

Interested applicants may email their portfolio and resume at hrd@redeventsinc.com or have it delivered to Unit 3D 8101 Pearl Plaza, Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Let's see if we're MFEO.

Advance Communication System, Inc.

A system integrator dedicated to provide comprehensive range of services from project design to implementation, and provider of mobile communication equipment and solutions has an urgent need of highly qualified personnel to complete its team:

RF PLANNING SUPERVISOR
- Male, Licensed ECE
- At least 5 years experience in RF design and Network Optimization
- Can prepare technical cell design for Macro, Micro and indoor sites
- Hands-on experience with RF Planning tool, various drivetest equipment, and RFTest equipment.
- Preferably has knowledge in 3G, WIFI, and IP network.
- Can interface and present group's technical design with clients
- Computer literate with knowledge in Windows OS and Office, Visual Basic.
- Ability to communicate effectively at all levels.

TELECOM ENGINEERS
- Male, 28 – 36 years old
- Graduate of Electronics Communication Engineering or Electrical Engineering
- Licensure Exams Passer, an advantage
- At least 2 year experience in GSM Implementation
- Has extensive background in BTS & Microwave radio (RF planning, installation, commissioning & integration)
- Computer literate with in depth knowledge in using MS Excel, Visio, A-CADD
- Knowledgeable in using different telecom equipment

HRAD ASSISTANT
- Female, 22 – 26 years old
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management, Behavioral Science, Psychology or any related course
- With at least 1 year work experience in either recruitment, training, employee relations or benefits administration
- Must be flexible, hardworking, aggressive and team player
- Detail-oriented, highly organized and pro-active
- With excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Proficient in computer applications

We offer competitive packages and challenging work environment that encourages professional development and growth.

Interested applicants are requested to personally submit their resume at
2/F Dolmar Gold Tower
107 C. Palanca St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel: 840-26-43 to 44
e-mail at: acs.admin@ahdgroup.com.ph

The Bread Factory

Join us and we'll take you higher! Getting Stronger and Bigger Food Corporation needs YOU NOW!!!

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE
- Female, 22 to 26 years old
- Candidate must be a BS Hotel and Restaurant Management graduate
- With 2 years experience in the same position in food industry
- Must be flexible, hardworking, aggressive and team player
- With excellent organizational, interpersonal oral and written communication skills
- Mature, systematic and can handle pressure well.
- Must be detailed-oriented, with high sense of integrity and must be able to relate effectively with people across all levels of society.
- Proficient in computer applications
- With pleasing personality
- Applicants must be willing to work in Manila area.

BAKING CREW
- Male, 21- 30 years old
- Minimum height of 5'5"
- Minimum 2 years related work experience
- Baking experience will be an advantage
- Applicants must be willing to work in Manila area

CASHIER
- Female, 18 - 25 years old
- With cashiering experience in a fast-food restaurant
- Applicants must be willing to work in Manila area
- With pleasing personality

SERVICE CREW
- Male, 18- 26 years old
- With work experience in a fast-food restaurant
- Personable and can work with minimum supervision
- Applicants must be willing to work in Manila area
- With pleasing personality

Working students are welcome to apply.

Interested applicants are requested to personally submit their resumé at:
2/F Dolmar Gold Tower
107C. Palanca St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel: 840-26-43 to 44
email at acs.admin@ahdgroup.com.ph

IT Specialists

The USAID-funded MCA-PTP Technical Assistance Project, has an urgent need for six (6) Production Support Assistants to assist in the Nationwide Rollout of Computerized Systems Project implemented by the BIR. The successful candidates will be needed for an initial period of at least six months. The Production Support Assistants (PSA) should have the following qualifications:

a) extensive experience with Oracle version 7.3 up and Oracle Report Writer;
b) strong computer operations background;
c) skilled in the use of SQL + and SQL Forms;
d) functional knowledge of the tax business area is desired, but not essential.

The PSA shall perform the following functions:

- assist the BIR's Project Team in implementing the Integrated Tax System (ITS) Rollouts;
- assist the BIR Data Center in maintaining the existing ITS applications and in responding to requests for assistance from the ITS users of newly-connected sites;
- do the necessary program fixes in response to help desk calls;
- submit periodic reports to BIR and the MCA-PTP TAP.

Interested applicants should submit their most recent CV to Mr. Jene Aliwalas, Component Manager RATE, Millennium Challenge Account – Philippines Threshold Program Technical Assistance Project at **mpastrana@msi-mca.com** or at Room 2302, 23Fl Sedeno,corner Valero Sts. Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227 Tel. Nos. 887-7412; 887-7467 to 69.

VASTLY GROWING COMPANY HAS AN URGENT NEED OF THE FF:

SALES COORDINATOR
- Candidate must be at least a bachelor's degree in any field
- Experience in providing support to Sales Team
- At least one year related experience is required

AREA SALES SUPERVISOR
- Graduate of Management, Business or have relevant work experience
- Willing to travel; Must have good communication and interpersonal skills
- Has knowledge in sales, store analysis and in supervising staff

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
- Must be at least a bachelor's degree in Finance/Accounting/Banking or equivalent
- With work experience in Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Inventory Consignment, Taxation and Accounts Reconciliation
- Keen on detail and with good sense of judgement

LOGISTICS SUPERVISOR
- Graduate of Management, Business or have relevant work experience
- Has knowledge on inventory and warehouse management
- Must have supervisory experience

Send resumés to **seeks_resumes@yahoo.com**. Indicate desired position as Subject

---

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Inquire about
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at 897-8808
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JOB Market

Education Development Center, Inc.

Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills (EQuALLS) 2 Program

Education Development Center, a US-based, international nongovernmental organization, is seeking an experienced professional for the technical program team of the USAID-funded EQuALLS project in the Philippines. EQuALLS will work with a broad range of stakeholder organizations to strengthen formal and non-formal basic education for children and youth in Mindanao. Experience in international development projects is desired. Experience working in Mindanao in conflict or post-conflict situations will be an advantage, and ability and willingness to extensively travel within ARMM and Regions 9 and 12.

EDC is an equal opportunity employer. The project needs:

One (1) Grants Compliance Officer, to provide support to sub-grants manager in managing the sub-grants portfolio and ensuring proper compliance with USAID regulations. Based in Manila with extensive travel to Mindanao. Must be a CPA with solid auditing background or with 3-5 years experience in auditing USAID-funded projects; adept with USAID regulations; strong analytical and organizational skills; ability to multi-task, excellent interpersonal skills; excellent oral and written communication skills; familiar with Philippine labor; tax and related laws; able and willing to travel to Mindanao.

Submission of Application
Qualified candidates who meet the above requirements may submit their application and updated CV to jpulombarit@edc.org no later than October 5, 2007. Previous applicants need not apply. Due to the volume of applications received, only shortlisted candidates will be acknowledged.

Salary and benefits will be commensurate with experience.

DATA ENCODER/ SECRETARY

- 18-25 yrs. old Female
- College Graduate w/ Experience
- Computer Literate w/ Excellent Typing Skills

Bring RESUMÉ w/ 2x2 Picture
Rm 201 Grace Tower Bldg, 528 Lavezares St.,
Bdo. Manila

Tel No.: 242-21-28 Monday-Saturday 8-5pm

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
A well-known distributor of Optical Products is in need of:
SALES REPRESENTATIVE
- not more than 35 years old
- college graduate preferably with one year selling and
- customer service experience

Please submit personally your comprehensive resumé at:
Unit 1402, 14th flr., Annapolis Wilshire Plaza,
No. 11 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila

Land Administration and Management Project 2 (LAMP2) is a multi-funded project with grant aid for Technical Assistance from the Australian Government and World Bank loan to the Philippine Government. The Technical Assistance Team needs

NATIONAL ADVISER

STUDY ON POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ON THE ISSUANCE OF MISCELLANEOUS SALES PATENT (MSA)

The study will assess the viability of using MSA as a mass titling option for residential and commercial properties. It will undertake a high level examination of the applicable laws and regulations, evaluate their effectiveness and appropriateness, identify areas of concern, provide options for improvements or amendments, and propose reformatory policy issuances to accelerate mass titling in residential and commercial areas. The study will also undertake case studies, conduct consultations with applicants and MSA holders, and examine existing records in selected areas.

The full Terms of Reference (TOR) are available upon request.

The applicant must have the following expertise and qualifications:

- Appropriate tertiary qualifications, preferably a lawyer, including training relevant to the formulation and implementation of land laws and policies
- Practical knowledge and broad experience in land administration laws and processes of the Philippines
- Keen understanding and knowledge of the background and objectives of the "Miscellaneous Sales Patent," its applications and implementation arrangements
- Previous experience at a senior level executive position in any land administration office is highly desirable
- Strong analytical skills including ability to prepare concise written reports and capacity to engage in constructive dialogue with a diverse range of stakeholders

LAND equity

*Applicants may email their CV with cover letter and at least 2 references to **palamp1@mindgate.net** or fax to 9281176. **Deadline for Submission: 5:00 PM, 8 October 2007.***

*Land Equity International contracts and manages the grant funding for Technical Assistance. Please log on to **www.landequity.com.au**, for detailed information about the company and to **www.phil-lamp.org** for project information.*

PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY HEALTH
Implemented by
Chemonics International Inc

The PRISM Project supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, *Desired family size and improved health sustainably achieved*, focusing on three components: 1) increased **workplace** support for FP services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass **market** brands of hormonal contraceptives, and 3) increased business value of FP among **private practice** providers.

Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Specialist

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist is the point person in the implementation of the project monitoring plan (PMP) and reporting on project performance and M&E activities. He/She will be responsible for the following:

- Update and develop Results Framework, Project Monitoring Plan
- Design and develop M&E tools, and training materials
- Conduct M&E trainings
- Provide technical assistance and initiate balance between high-quality implementation of project activities with the attainment of quantitative project targets.
- Perform data analysis of M&E data, and formulate recommendations
- Regularly generate M&E reports, and liaise with partners

Qualifications

- Minimum 5 years work experience in health and development work, as project monitoring and evaluation specialist
- Master of Science degree in any field of Social Science, Economics, Statistics, preferably with strong background in health and population studies
- Working knowledge of statistical and database software packages *(SPSS,STATA, MS Access)*
- Excellent communication (oral and written) skills, with demonstrated ability to write technical reports

Health Management Information System (HMIS) Specialist

The Health Management Information System (HMIS) Specialist will be the project's data analyst and information officer. He/She manages the project information system and analyzes project and external data as decision-support to project implementation. He/She will be responsible for the following:

- Assess and identify gaps and needs in the project's current information system.
- Recommend, design, and develop appropriate changes to existing information system.
- Integrate project and relevant non-project data for each of the project's strategic implementation areas (SIAs).
- Conduct information system utilization training/updates to Knowledge Management Specialists (KMSs).
- Conduct exploratory data analysis and develop appropriate data analysis of existing project data as further support to project planning and implementation.
- Provide data and inputs to the updating of project results framework and performance monitoring plan, development / updating of M&E tools and preparation of annual PMP reports.
- Provide inputs about HMIS activities / accomplishments to project quarterly / annual reports.
- Prepare technical notes, papers, best practices and success stories related to HMIS.

Qualifications

- BS and MS degrees in any field of Social Science, Economics, Statistics, Computer Science, preferably with strong background in health and population studies
- Work experience in market research and/or health and population research
- Familiarity with existing population and health databases in the Philippines
- Working knowledge of statistical and database software packages *(SPSS,STATA, MS Access, MySQL)*
- Excellent communication (oral and written) skills, with demonstrated ability to write technical reports
- Background and work experience in MIS/GIS system development and database management
- Demonstrated ability to communicate and specify project requirements to various suppliers, including website developers, research institutions, etc.

Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter and CV at jobs@prism.org.ph on or before **October 10, 2007. This is an urgent need.** Please indicate the **"Position Code: HMIS"** or **"Position Code: M&E"** as subject in the email.

ARKI / 3D RENDERER

Knows how to use
AutoCad, 3D Studio
Max, Photoshop
& Corel
Preferably know
how to use
VRAY.

Submit Resumé to:

DQADesign & Planning Inc.
U 2103 88 Corporate Ctr.
141 Valero St., Salcedo Vill.
Makati City
Tel. No. 7574385-87

Read it every Sunday
with the
Philippine Daily Inquirer.

JOB Market
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ARE YOU THE CHOSEN ONE?

A leading multimedia company dealing with intellectual properties is in need of the following:

3 MARKETING EXECUTIVES

We are looking for pro-active, dynamic yuppies ages 27 yrs. old & above w/ at least 4 years experience in sales & marketing & brand management. Should be a team player, creative, w/ excellent oral & written skills, w/ the ability to use own initiative w/ "can do" attitude.

1. *We need one candidate to take charge of brands & new business development. With solid network of contacts in various industries: apparel, footwear, bags, home furnishing & the FMCGs.*

2. *We also need one candidate who will be in-charge of franchising KIDS JUKE BOX - a personalized music & storytelling CDs & personalized toys & gifts; must be technologically savvy, loves music & children stuff.*

3. *We need another candidate to handle production music library sales to radio & TV stations, film production outfits, ad agencies, Internet, video game production, corporate companies, etc. We represent 20+ major foreign music libraries. We prefer applicants w/ music background & w/ a solid network of clients.*

Email resume w/ latest photo to admin@empiremultimedia.com
www.empiremultimedia.com

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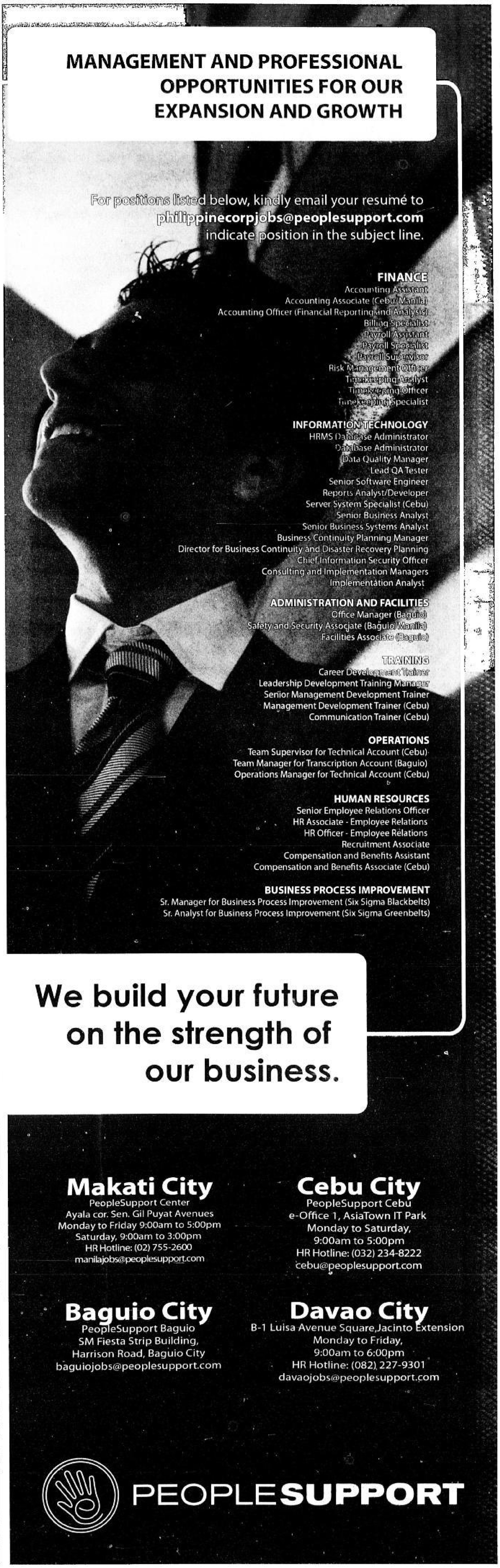
Young & Energetic Experience Restaurant Manager For Established Rest.

Apply for schedule of interview by calling:
tel. no. 842-0776 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



MANAGEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR EXPANSION AND GROWTH

For positions listed below, kindly email your resumé to
philippinecorpjobs@peoplesupport.com
indicate position in the subject line.

FINANCE
Accounting Assistant
Accounting Associate (Cebu/Manila)
Accounting Officer (Financial Reporting and Analysis)
Billing Specialist
Payroll Assistant
Payroll Specialist
Payroll Supervisor
Risk Management Officer
Timekeeping Analyst
Timekeeping Officer
Timekeeping Specialist

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
HRMS Database Administrator
Database Administrator
Data Quality Manager
Lead QA Tester
Senior Software Engineer
Reports Analyst/Developer
Server System Specialist (Cebu)
Senior Business Analyst
Senior Business Systems Analyst
Business Continuity Planning Manager
Director for Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Planning
Chief Information Security Officer
Consulting and Implementation Managers
Implementation Analyst

ADMINISTRATION AND FACILITIES
Office Manager (Baguio)
Safety and Security Associate (Baguio/Manila)
Facilities Associate (Baguio)

TRAINING
Career Development Trainer
Leadership Development Training Manager
Senior Management Development Trainer
Management Development Trainer (Cebu)
Communication Trainer (Cebu)

OPERATIONS
Team Supervisor for Technical Account (Cebu)
Team Manager for Transcription Account (Baguio)
Operations Manager for Technical Account (Cebu)

HUMAN RESOURCES
Senior Employee Relations Officer
HR Associate - Employee Relations
HR Officer - Employee Relations
Recruitment Associate
Compensation and Benefits Assistant
Compensation and Benefits Associate (Cebu)

BUSINESS PROCESS IMPROVEMENT
Sr. Manager for Business Process Improvement (Six Sigma Blackbelts)
Sr. Analyst for Business Process Improvement (Six Sigma Greenbelts)

We build your future on the strength of our business.

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PeopleSupport Center
Ayala cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Avenues
Monday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm
Saturday, 9:00am to 3:00pm
HR Hotline: (02) 755-2600
manilajobs@peoplesupport.com

Cebu City
PeopleSupport Cebu
e-Office 1, AsiaTown IT Park
Monday to Saturday,
9:00am to 5:00pm
HR Hotline: (032) 234-8222
cebu@peoplesupport.com

Baguio City
PeopleSupport Baguio
SM Fiesta Strip Building,
Harrison Road, Baguio City
baguiojobs@peoplesupport.com

Davao City
B-1 Luisa Avenue Square,Jacinto Extension
Monday to Friday,
9:00am to 6:00pm
HR Hotline: (082) 227-9301
davaojobs@peoplesupport.com

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Send applications to multilingual.recruiting@etelecare.com

Microsoft Senior Application Developer*
Microsoft Application Developers*
IT Project Leaders*
NICE Systems Administrator*
*Joining bonus for successful candidates who submit applications by Oct. 5

- Oracle Developers
- IT Helpdesk Associates
- Microsoft Database Administrators
- Cisco Certified Network Engineer
- Avaya Telecommunications Engineers
- Computer Systems Specialist
- Market Research Specialist
- Recruitment Marketing Specialist
- Sourcing Specialist
- Recruiting Specialist
- Recruiting Associates (Davao)
- Senior Sales Training Specialist
- Language Trainers
- Training Supervisor
- OD Senior Training Officer
- Workforce Management Specialists (Forecasting and Scheduling)
- Productivity Assurance Coordinators
- Resource Specialists
- Capacity Planning Specialist
- Capacity Planning Section Lead
- Team Leaders
- Quality Assurance Associates
- Compensation and Benefits Supervisor
- Human Resource Officer
- Human Resource Specialists
- Frontdesk Associate
- Junior Financial Analyst
- Admininistrative Assistant

P20,000 JOINING BONUS FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT AGENTS
*must start by Oct 8.
*must not undergo pre-employment training to qualify

P15,000 PREMIUM FOR EXPERIENCED AGENTS
*must start by Oct 8
*must not undergo pre-employment language training to qualify
*will be assigned in any of the Customer Service or Sales programs in either Libis or Alabang

QUALIFIED* EXPERIENCED AGENTS WILL BE HIRED AT LEVEL 2
*with 6 mos call center experience
*must not undergo pre-employment language training to qualify
*will be assigned in a Telecom program in Shaw

CAREER SHOWCASE OPEN HOUSE!

Oct. 1-6 Annex@Shaw Bldg. Shaw Blvd

Join our Job Fairs & Get
P20,000++ Relocation Package!

Oct. 3, 8-5pm @Teacher's Conference Center, P.Herrera St., Batangas City
Oct. 12-13,8-5pm @Municipal Hall, Poblacion, Gen. Trias Cavite

LIBIS	SHAW	MAKATI	ALABANG	CEBU	DAVAO
2/F CyberOne Bldg. Eastwood, Libis	Upper G/F Annex@Shaw Shaw Blvd. cor. EDSA	12/F PBCom Tower Ayala Ave., Makati.	G/F Plaz@ A Bldg. Northgate Cyberzone Filinvest Corporate City	G/F i2 Bldg. Asiatown IT Park Lahug, Cebu City	C-1 Mezzanine Flr. Apo View Hotel Davao City

Text ETEL (space) PDI (space) Name, Landline Number & desired position
Send to: 2327(Globe Subscribers) 0917-8902327 (All Non-Globe Subscribers)

"Grow faster with us!"

Explore a world of opportunities:

Attractive Compensation - Above average and competitive salaries.
Incentives - Highly beneficial reward programs for exceptional performance
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Work with dodo, the fastest growing telco in Australia. Get that dodo fever and fly high with a competitive compensation and a healthier lifestyle.

Career Opportunities:

Operations:	Outbound Sales Representatives Customer Service Representatives Technical Support Representatives Winback Representatives
Support:	Quality Manager Project Recruiter Recruitment Officer (Sourcing) Communication Skills Trainer

Qualifications:

Operations:	At least 6 months call center experience handling international accounts
Support:	At least 1 year experience in the same capacity

Send your application to:
Careers.agent@acquireap.com - for Agent Positions
Careers.nonagent@acquireap.com - for Non-Agent Positions
or Log on to:
www.acquireasiapacific.com

ACQUIRE
Better Life. Better People.

The University Research Co. LLC (URC) seeks a Research, Evaluation and Monitoring (REM) Advisor and a Media Advisor for its USAID funded Health Promotion and Communication Project (HealthPro) in the Philippines. This project is working with the Department of Health and local institutions to assist LGUs in 29 provinces in the promotion of healthy behaviors in the country.

RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND MONITORING (REM) ADVISOR

Specific Responsibilities:

The Research, Evaluation and Monitoring (REM) Advisor will take the lead and provide technical oversight of all research, evaluation and monitoring-related activities of the project. S/He will work closely with all the members of the project technical team, as appropriate. The responsibilities of the Research, Evaluation and Monitoring Specialist shall include the following:

1. Take the lead in developing the project's Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) in consultation with the project's technical team and develop a monitoring system to track these indicators;
2. Prepare an evaluation and research agenda for the project that includes evaluation activities, appropriate Behavior Change Communications (BCC) and operations research, as needed;
3. Prepare research concept paper for discussion with internal technical team and consultation with external partners, as needed;
4. Provide technical assistance in the development of simple research techniques and tools for monitoring and evaluations of local Health Promotion and Communication (HPC) plans;
5. Assist in the implementation of capacity building interventions on communication research, evaluation and monitoring for national and local partner institutions; and
6. Determine the need for short-term consultants, prepare scopes of work, identify appropriate individuals and prepare needed documents to engage their services.

Desired Qualifications:

- M.A. in social science research, communications, social/behavioral sciences or other related fields. Ph.D. preferred;
- At least 6 years of documented extensive/advanced experience in designing, conducting and managing project monitoring and evaluation, and social science research in the Philippines;
- Familiarity and understanding of health issues and the dynamics surrounding health programs at national and local levels including issues in monitoring and evaluating health promotion activities;
- Familiarity with social science research institutions and practitioners in the Philippines;
- Filipino national.

MASS MEDIA ADVISOR

Specific responsibilities:

The Mass Media Advisor will be responsible for ensuring the achievement of activities leading to the increase in reach and quality of public dissemination activities and ensuring the optimum utilization of the mass media. S/He will work closely with the BCC Advisor and other technical specialists and will take the lead in providing technical advice to project partners including LGUs on developing appropriate mass media approaches and interventions in support of interpersonal communication strategies. The responsibilities of the Mass Media Advisor shall include the following:

1. Propose and define performance indicators for an effective and efficient implementation of public information and mass media interventions and provide inputs in developing a monitoring system to track these indicators;
2. Undertake inventory of existing relevant mass media materials and enhance them to ensure they meet standards and best practices in audience-centered and integrated health communication;
3. The development of core health messages for public dissemination and mass media materials that address national/local health concerns in terms of appropriate healthy practices, health services and health policies and support interpersonal communication interventions;
4. Compile, regularly update, and distribute to local and national media partners, messages on healthy practices, health services, and appropriate health policies for public dissemination;
5. Put in-place a system to institutionalize and sustain this partnership with mass media practitioners at all levels;
6. Design and implement a system to ensure that all mass media tools and materials produced under USAID-assisted projects in the Philippines adhere to appropriate quality standard and USAID branding requirements;
7. Provide technical advice to project partners including LGUs on developing appropriate mass media approaches and interventions in support of interpersonal communication strategies; and
8. Determine need for short-term consultants on public information and mass media, prepare scopes of work for these consultants; identify appropriate individuals and prepare needed documents to engage their services.

Desired Qualifications:

- M.A. in communications, marketing, or other related fields;
- At least 6 years of documented experience on extensive/advanced mass media work in the Philippines;
- Familiarity and understanding of health issue and the dynamics surrounding health programs at national and local levels, including issues in mass media promotion;
- Familiarity with the dynamics surrounding mass media in the Philippines including mass media structures and media practitioners in the country;
- Filipino national

Application Instructions:

Send application letter and CV to: gperla@urc-chs.com by October 15, 2007. No telephone inquiries, please.

The University Research Co. LLC (URC) seeks a Chief of Party for its USAID-funded Health Promotion and Communication Project (HealthPro) in the Philippines. This project collaborates with the Department of Health and local institutions to assist Local Government Units (LGU) in 29 provinces in the promotion of healthy behaviors in the country. Responsibilities include:

CHIEF OF PARTY

Health Promotion and Communication Project (HealthPro)

Specific Responsibilities:

1. Provide overall strategic and managerial leadership of the project in collaboration with all of the major stakeholders;
2. Provide management oversight on all project activities ensuring that they stay relevant to the goals of the project;
3. Assist in the identification of all project technical assistance needs required to achieve the expected outputs of the Contract;
4. Develop scopes of work, recruitment of consultants, and execution of technical assistance contracts;
5. Design management systems with standard operating procedures; and
6. Operationalize an annual project planning cycle which formulates comprehensive annual contact workplans and budgets in accordance with the USAID annual planning cycle and assures timely disbursement of funds.

Desired Qualifications:

- Minimum 10 to 15 years of solid international experience in managing large-scale health promotions and behavior change communication projects;
- Advanced degree in communication, social and behavioral sciences; or other related fields, including health sciences or public health supplemented by a degree in mass media or communication;
- At least 10 years of documented experience in relevant communication work particularly in the development and implementation of local BCC/IPC strategies, institutional development and capacity building, and working with mass media companies in the Philippines and other developing countries;
- Successful prior experience in directly advising high-level national and local government officials and civil society leaders, preferably in the Philippines;
- Experience in managing donor-funded programs and working with USAID and other donors preferred;
- Familiarity and understanding of health issues including health promotions and behavior change communication concerns in health;
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to interact with government officials and international donors;
- Proven dynamic and strategic leadership.

Application Instructions:

Send application letter and CV to: gperla@urc-chs.com by October 15, 2007. No telephone inquiries, please.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

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Makati: 892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370
Kalaw: 528-0213; 527-3342
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Urgent Needs in our BPO Programs:

MARKETING DATA STRATEGISTS (SQL) or SQL SPECIALISTS

JOB DESCRIPTION:
This high-profile role is tasked to work with North American clients to define and execute the data strategy in support of marketing programs through the strategic use of customer data warehouses and operational marketing systems. Functionally, the role involves consultation, translating business requirements to technical data specifications, communicating technical matters to the business users, as well as actual data extraction (e.g., segmentation, analysis, targeting, list selection, testing) to support the clients in achieving specific business objectives, and to improve the overall effectiveness of the clients' marketing and sales programs.

REQUIREMENTS:
- Bachelor's degree in any field (preferably I.T. or business-related course)
- Strong SQL and database skills, minimum 1-year SQL experience
- Minimum 1-year client services experience
- Ability to coach others and work on complex data stuctures using SQL
- Ability to understand business and marketing strategies
- Excellent communication and project management skills
- Customer focused; has business acumen
- Able to work independently as well as collaborate with a team (or teams)

OTHER BPO OPPORTUNITIES

Reports Analyst
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Software Build Engineer

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Inbound Associates for Domino's USA
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Labor/HR Generalists
Recruitment Officers
QA Analysts
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Follow your passion*

PricewaterhouseCoopers (www.pwc.com) is a global organization drawing on the knowledge and skills of more than 140,000 people in 149 countries. As one team, we work together to deliver the best service to our clients. In the process, we accelerate our personal and professional growth.

Join us for the challenging opportunities that will stretch your potential, a culture that will inspire you and resources that will drive you to the top.

Tax consultants
(Position code: TC)

CPAs, Lawyers, CPA-Lawyers, and CPA-underbars, preferably with experience in tax services work.

Technical assistants
(Position code: TA)

CPAs, experience not required. Legal Management graduates may apply for paralegal work.

Candidates for both positions must have good communication and interpersonal skills.

Make your move!
Please indicate **position code** and send your résumé to:

Human resources department

Isla Lipana & Co./
PricewaterhouseCoopers
29th Floor, Philamlife Tower
8767 Paseo de Roxas
1226 Makati City

Telephone +63 (2) 845 2728
Facsimile +63 (2) 845 2806
Email hrd@ph.pwc.com
julie.jo.s.zerrudo@ph.pwc.com
kristine.r.makanas@ph.pwc.com

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CAMP JOHN HAY

The developer of Camp John Hay, Baguio City's premier forest-tourism resort, announces the following:

JOB OPENING

Executive Assistant
(for SVP for Legal and Corporate Services)

Minimum Qualifications:

Single, Preferably a graduate of Legal Management or any related Bachelor's degree, At least 2 years work experience in the field of Legal and Corporate Services, Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, Able to organize and transmit data and documents systematically & efficiently, Can work under minimal supervision, Proficient in Windows-based programs, Capable of dealing with various clients on a professional level.

For interested applicants, submit the following requirements with a Letter of Application to the Human Resource Department, Camp John Hay Development Corp., 5/F Renaissance Tower, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City not later than **05 October 2007**: Comprehensive Resumé with at least one contact number, 2x2 ID Picture, SSS Number, Tax Identification Number and Certificate/s of Employment.
Look for **Ms. Mary Rose Ramirez**
Or e-mail your requirements to
cjhhumanresource@gmail.com

One of the leading accounting firms is in need of talented professionals ready for immediate employment and be part of its expanding team for business process services to clients.

5 Experienced Accountants

Requirements:

Male / Female, between 20 to 30 years old
BSA Graduate, at least 1 year work experience in accounting functions
Knowledge in accounting programs like MYOB, Peach Tree, Quick Books, etc. is an advantage
Willing to work for multiple client assignments and render overtime works
CPAs and fresh graduates are also welcome

Interested parties may send their updated curriculum vitae to **human.resource@dmdcpa.com.ph** or may mail or bring personally to **Diaz Murillo Dalupan and Company** at 5F Don Jacinto Building, Dela Rosa corner Salcedo Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Important: Only qualified candidates will be scheduled for interview and/or appointments.

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Roto-Rooter, the largest plumbing company in the U.S. is now in the Philippines looking for experienced plumbers who can do the jobs in Residences and Commercial Buildings hands on and can manage technicians.

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- **Experience in Construction, Pipe laying & drain cleaning is essential**
- **Overseas work experience is an advantage**
- **Writing & speaking good English is a must**
- **Certificate or Diploma from TESDA or related Institution is preferred.**

Guaranteed Salary plus Commissions.

Please submit your resumé with 2X2 Photo, Address & Contact No. to :

Roto-Rooter Phils., a division of KKC Services Inc.
7th Floor, Makati Executive Center
#114 L.P. Leviste cor Rufino Sts.
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel.# 812-1000

WANTED
FEMALE NURSE

- 20-25 years old
- to work as a clinic nurse

Send your resumé with photo to:

P.O. Box No. MN-007-07
Philippine Daily Inquirer
c/o Classified Ads
1098 Chino Roces Avenue
cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts.,
Makati City

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Bangko ng Bayan

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

CONSUMER LENDING UNIT HEAD
- Male or Female, aged between 25-40 years old
- A university degree or college diploma in accountancy, commerce, economics or a related field is required
- Knows how to handle housing, auto & personal loans
- Has a network & contact with real-estate developers
- Has actual experience with CTS financial
- Preferably with banking experience

LEGAL OFFICER
- Female, Bar Passer, aged 30-40 years old
- Preferably with at least 1 year work experience in a bank
- With Credit Review and Documentation Expertise

Interested parties may submit their application letter, resume & other related documents to **LBC Bank 809 J.P Rizal St., Makati City or email to hr@lbcbank.ph**. For inquiries, call 8998686 loc 305 & look for Ms. Sheila

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NOW HIRING

1 – ACCOUNTANT
- Accounting graduate, preferably CPA
- At least 2-3 years experience
- Knowledge in Taxation is an advantage
- Result-oriented, highly matured and with strong leadership skill
- Computer literate
- Male or female, at least 25-30 yrs old

1 – ACCOUNTING CLERK
- Accounting graduate
- Male or female, at least 22 yrs. old
- With experience an advantage
- Computer literate

Interested applicants may fax their resumé with photo to Ms. Montesa at 807-3818 or send e-mail to: **bmmontesa@yahoo.com**

NARRA SYSTEMS

is in need of

Software Development Engineers

Bringing the Silicon Valley tradition to the Philippines......

We are Silicon Valley Investors based in San Jose, California starting a software development company in the Philippines. Software products developed will soon be marketed to hi-tech companies in the US.

To be equipped with the proper knowledge in doing the product, we are providing extensive training to gear each team member up. We also provide opportunities for various prestigious certifications (i.e CCNA, CCNP, CCIE, etc). Part of the team that developed this software will eventually relocate to Silicon Valley to further enhance and support the software.

Narra Systems is a startup company, so employees are entitled to the company's ownership thru stock option grants on top of the basic salary.

The pioneering team has already started and we are still in need of talented, highly motivated, and highly skilled individuals who are willing to build a future with us.

Be one of the world's finest engineers. Be a Narra Systems Engineer!

Minimum Requirements:
- B.S. Computer Science/Engineering; fresh graduates, graduating students are encouraged to apply
- Good knowledge in C/C++, Perl, TCL/TK
- Background in SNMP, FreeBSD, Java and PHP is a plus
- Basic Computer Networking
- Good written and verbal communication skills
- Willing to work in Manila

For interested individuals, please send your application letter with your resumé to: **mgcruz@narrasystems.com** or **cmabastar@narrasystems.com** or **phanova@narrasystems.com** and **cc:rgatus@narrasystems.com**

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- At least 22 to 27 years old.
- Good command of both written & spoken English.
- With pleasing personality, willing to work on field.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office & Windows application.
- Convincing, dynamic, & hardworking with excellent ability to work under pressure.
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.

You may personally apply to:

PNEUMATIC TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

Unit 1001A Richville Corporate Tower, 1107 Alabang-Zapote Road,
Madrigal Business Park, Muntinlupa City
Tel. Nos. (02) 772-3634; 807-3356; 807-5564
E-mail Address: pti@info.com.ph

ACCOUNTANTS

Qualifications:

- Accounting graduate, preferably CPA
- Proficient in Word and Excel
- Preferably with previous significant working experience in accounting or audit
- With excellent communication skills

Interested accountants are requested to personally submit their resumé and credentials Mondays to Wednesdays, 8:00 to 11:00 A.M.:

MANILA CONSULTING & MANAGEMENT CO., INC.
Unit 2106, 88 Corporate Center
Sedeño corner Valero Street
Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City

LOURDES SCHOOL OF MANDALUYONG
Shaw Blvd., Greenhills, Mandaluyong City 1552
Tel. Nos. 631-6307; 631-6356; 632-9547; Telefax 631-6310
Website: www.lsm.edu.ph.com
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WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR
- MA in Guidance and Counseling
- preferably male
- not more than 35 years old

EDUCATIONAL RESEARCHER
- BS Math or equivalent
- extensive knowledge of Statistics and Research Proposal preparation
- computer literate
- not more than 35 years old

GRADE SCHOOL TEACHER
- Elementary Education graduate
- preferably with Teacher License
- willing to teach in the lower grades
- not more than 35 years old

Apply personally with resumé for interview from Mondays to Fridays, 8:30 – 11:00 AM only.

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ARCHITECTS

The Requirements:
- Licensed Architect with 5 to 10 years of experience
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- Good organizational skills

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ICT Group, Inc., a publicly-listed company in the U.S., is a leading global provider of outsourced customer management and business press outsourcing solutions with over 20,000 employees in customer operations centers in the U.S., U.K., Ireland, Canada, Australia, Mexico, Barbados, Argentina, India, Costa Rica and the Philippines.

The Philippines center, which started in May 2003 with only 250 employees, now has over 7,000 employees in 6 centers supporting multinational corporations and institutions primarily in the financial services, insurance, telecommunications and information technology industries. As a result of our continuing growth, we are now looking for dynamic individuals to be based in our Makati office as:

The CRM Solutions Company

For U.S. Operations (Shared Services)

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Works with ICT's Corporate U.S. Headquarters to define and execute financial strategies in support of North America and Canada's expanding business. Functionally, the role involves financial and management reporting, U.S. regulatory and SOX compliance, accounts payable/ disbursements management, development of policies and internal controls. Leads the development and implementation of best practices in the areas of financial accounting and reporting.

Requirements:
Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy, must be a CPA; at least 3 years experience in a managerial position; a dynamic leader of a lean team; a passion to excel and drive best practices globally; self and results driven; strong commitment to tight deadlines; technically adept in US GAAP; working knowledge with SOX compliance; excellent English verbal and written communication skills; a plus for those with 4 years audit experience with the big four; a plus for those CFA, CMA, and CIA; must be willing to work on nighttime or U.S. hours.

Accountants (4)

Performs various disciplines in accounting and reporting i.e. disbursements processing, reconciliation of supplier, employee and intercompany accounts, balance sheet reviews, journal entries, exceptions reporting and account analysis. Assists in the review of systems and procedures for improvements and set up of global best practices.

Requirements:
Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy, must be a CPA; at least 2 years experience in BPO, shared services or multinational company; excellent English verbal and written communication skills; detail oriented, self motivated, driven to work for excellent results, strong commitment to tight deadlines; must be willing to work on nighttime or U.S. hours.

For Philippine Operations

Compliance Officers (2)

Ensures compliance with government (PEZA, BIR and local government) current laws, rules and regulations. Leads in obtaining tax incentives for the Company through registrations and compliance with PEZA. Keeps up to date with new and relevant taxes and reporting requirements. Assess risks and provide solutions, develops, and implements internal control systems. Designs and strengthens business process to eliminate control weaknesses. Ensures 100% SOX compliance within the business units. Will streamline processes and must effectively communicate and implement controls across the organization.

Requirements:
Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy, must be a CPA; solid experience in working for a multinational and PEZA registered entity; knowledge in PEZA new site registrations, qualifications and regulations; expertise on national and local taxation; adept in SOX compliance; a plus for those with tax and audit experience with the big 4; can collaborate across all areas of the organization; possess strong interpersonal skills and is confident in managing and influencing various stakeholders; excellent verbal and written communication skills; willing to work on shifting schedules.

Sr. Financial Analysts (2)

Manages financial performance including efficiency and cost structure improvements. Collects and studies data to determine costs of business activities. Analyzes financial data and extracts and defines relevant information for the purpose of determining financial performance and to project financial profitability. Reports and provides analysis for resource requirements and other related reports for forecasting, budgeting, trending and result analysis to the Finance and Operations Departments.

Requirements:
Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy, must be a CPA; at least 3 years experience in related field; strong analytical skills and business acumen to guide complex business decisions; excellent verbal and written communication skills; self-driven, solutions provider and results-oriented; flexible and willing to work on shifting schedules.

Financial Analysts (2)

Prepares and analyzes daily and monthly financial and management reports. Develops and prepares annual business plan and department budgets. Monitors and manage reporting of costs and expenses. Performs accounts and labor analyses and drives cost reduction initiatives.

Requirements:
Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy, preferably CPA; background in BPO environment is a plus; at least 2 years experience in related field; excellent verbal and written communication skills; strong analytical and entrepreneurial skills, solutions provider and results-oriented; focused and committed to tight reporting deadlines; willing to work on shifting schedules and can adapt to nighttime work.

Accountants/Accounting Assistants (4)

Performs day-to-day financial accounting support including check disbursements, treasury, account reconciliation, analysis, compiling standards and ad hoc accounting and statistical data for management. Liaise with suppliers and other departments for vendor management, best practices and control compliance. Performs monthly and year-end closing and analysis of financial results.

Requirements:
Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy; at least 2 years relevant experience in a BPO environment or multinational company; results and detail oriented, strong analytical skills, hardworking, and strong discipline to meet tight deadlines; willing to work on shifting schedules and can adapt to nighttime work.

Finance/Admin Assistant

Renders organizational support to the Finance Department. Will assist in financial presentations, treasury coordination, expense reconciliations, cost control initiatives, scheduling of board and department meetings, process purchase requisitions, invoice preparation and collection.

Requirements:
Bachelor's Degree in Finance or equivalent; at least 1 year experience in the related field; strong PowerPoint and presentation skills; excellent verbal and written communication skills; flexible, proactive and results-oriented; willing to work on shifting schedules.

If you are a passionate individual who is interested in joining a dynamic team of professionals and is driven to set and implement best practices in finance and accounting you may submit your resume to **ngloria@ictgroup.com** or **gayle.chu@ictgroup.com**. You may also bring them to:

ICT Marketing Services, Inc.
9th Floor PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Avenue
Corner V.A Rufino St. 1226 Makati City
Telephone Numbers 857-0305

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Qualifications
- general accounting skills
- knowledge in present development in PAS and accounting treatment
- knowledge in Great Plains or other similar accounting software
- possesses strong leadership qualities and has good oral and written communication skills
- 25 years old and above

ACCOUNTING ASSOCIATE 1
- with at least 2 years experience in general accounting

Accounting Associate 2
- with at least 1 year experience in general accounting

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

Qualifications
- graduate of a business course or equivalent
- with excellent quantitative and analytical skills
- able to multi-task, computer proficient
- with at least 1 year related experience
- 22 to 30 years old

FINANCIAL PLANNING AND BUDGET SPECIALIST

Qualifications
- Accounting graduate, CPA
- experienced in management accounting & reporting
- with strong leadership skills
- has good oral and written communication skills
- has good business acumen
- with at least 3 to 5 years of work experience
- preferably not more than 35 years of age

HR ASSOCIATE – COMPENSATION AND BENFITS

Qualifications
- graduate of Human Resource Management or related course
- has exposure in compensation management, benefits administration and performance management
- must be proficient in MS Excel and data management
- preferably with 2 to 4 years of work experience

HR ASSOCIATE – LEGAL

Qualifications
- Law graduate
- Knowledgeable in investigation process and legal research
- Knowledgeable in processing of legal documents and applications
- Possesses good oral and written communication skills
- with experience in collective bargaining agreements/labor management councils
- preferably with 2 to 4 years of work experience

COMPANY NURSE

Qualifications
- must be a registered nurse
- preferably with Occupational Health & Safety Administration training conducted by DOLE/BWC-accredited training organization
- willing to do administrative tasks as assigned
- proficient in MS Office applications
- female
- preferably with 1 year working experience

REMITTANCE COMPLIANCE ASSOCIATE

Qualifications
- preferably graduate of Accounting
- with at least 2 years experience in process monitoring and enhancement recommendation
- analytical skills required
- proficient in MS Excel

Applicants may submit their resume with recent 2 x 2 colored picture (white background) and a photocopy of transcript of records to

HR Department
LBC Express, Inc.
General Aviation Center, Domestic Airport Compound, Pasay City
Or
Email: careers@teamlbc.com.ph
NOTE: Incomplete requirements will not be entertained

Our corporation is one of the stable manpower and management service corporations in the country. We are inviting you to become part of our growing number of highly qualified and competitive personnel. We have urgent needs for the following positions:

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS – Male/Female with bachelor's degree, at least 3 years of relevant work experience, computer literate, and with good oral and written communication skills. With or without civil service eligibility.

CORPORATE ANALYSTS - graduates of BS Industrial Engineering, BS Industrial Management or BS Statistics, with excellent written and communication skills, and could maintain good interpersonal relationships under pressure. Experience in time and motion studies, job analysis and operations research are preferable but not strict requirements. Not more than 30 years old.

LIBRARIANS – Male or Female, not more than 30 years old; graduate of BS Library Science or with work experience as librarian. With or without license.

CPA / ACCOUNTING STAFF – Male/Female, graduates of BS Accounting, with relevant work experience or new graduates, not more than 30 yrs. old, and with or without civil service eligibility.

CIVIL ENGINEERS – Graduates of BS Civil Engineering, with relevant work experience; AUTOCAD skills is an advantage, not more than 36 yrs old, and with or without license.

FINANCIAL RISK SPECIALISTS – Male/Female, graduates of BS Mathematics or BS Statistics with experience in mathematical modeling, good analytical & writing skills, and with or without civil service eligibility. Not more than 35 yrs. old.

IT SPECIALIST / PROGRAMMERS – Male/ Female; graduates of any IT related course with background in any of the following: Visual Basic, Adobe Photoshop, ACCESS or SAP. With relevant work experience is an advantage.

HRM OFFICERS – Male or Female, not more than 30 years old, graduate of AB/BS Psychology, Behavioral Science or any related course with extensive background in human resources functions.

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply personally with resume and recent ID picture to :

DBP SERVICE CORPORATION
2ND FLR. EXECUTIVE BLDG. CENTER
GIL PUYAT AVE. COR MAKATI AVE.
Tel Nos. 8951485 or 8951495
dbpsc.personnel@yahoo.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

SALES MANAGER

- Male or Female, aged between 28-45 years old
- Preferably graduate of BS Architecture/ Engineering
- With keen interest in selling and dealing with people
- Excellent Communication skills both oral and written
- Self-starting, analytical & results-oriented

DRAFTSMAN

- Male at least one (1) year experience
- Preferably graduate of BS Architecture
- With extensive knowledge in AutoCadd, 3D presentation

Apply in person on October 1, 3 & 5 (1 to 3 p.m. only)
Unit 12-B, Strata 2000 Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
For more details call: 631-1677 or 634-0772
Bring resumé, transcript of records, sample of works and credentials

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RUBBER IS OUR PASSION, QUALITY OUR OBSESSION

AWARD: Most Outstanding Recapping Raw Materials Manufacturer
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I. MARKETING

Sales Representative (CODE: TSR)
Key Accounts Specialist (CODE: KAS)
Business Development Officer (CODE: BDO)
- Male, not older than 27 years old
- College Graduate are Welcome
- No experience required but passion for sales & service is a must
- Good Communication Skills, Interpersonal Skills
- Organized, Competitive, Self Motivated
- Willing to undergo extensive training
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon
- With valid Professional Driver's License

II. CREDIT AND COLLECTION

Billing Officer (CODE: BLO)
AR Collection Specialist (CODE: ACS)
- Male or Female, not older than 25 years old
- 4 years or 2 years Course Graduate
- No experience required. College "undergrads" are Welcome
- Computer Literate (MS Office).
- Organized, Diligent, Good Interpersonal Skills, Self Motivated
- Willing to undergo extensive training
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon

III. DATA & DOCUMENTATION

Inventory & Warehouse Staff (CODE: IWS)
Data & Docs Staff (CODE: DDS)
- Male or Female, not older than 25 years old
- At least 2 years Course Graduate or College Undergraduate
- No experience required, Computer Literate (MS Office)
- Organized, Diligent, Meticulous
- Willing to undergo training, preferably a Bulacan resident

IV. LOGISTICS & DELIVERY

Chief Mechanic (CODE: CFM)
- Male, not older than 30 years old
- A Vocational-Technical Graduate
- Related to Automotive Mechanics
- Experience is required, At least 2 years
- Diesel Engine Specialist (ISUZU & MITSUBISHI)
- Knowledge of BASIC AUTOMOTIVE ELECTRICITY
- Organized, Hardworking, Honest
- Willing to be assigned in Bulacan

Requirements:
2 x 2 ID Picture, Resume, Contact Numbers; Transcript of Records, Diploma; Letter of Recommendation; NBI, Police, Barangay Clearance; Medical Certificate (Current); Employment Certificate

SUBMIT TO : Add: #100 Anahaw Street, Project 7, Quezon City 1105
Email: maredrubber@mydestiny.net

** Interview and Exam are to be scheduled*

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ACCOUNTING CLERK/SECRETARY

- Female, 22 to 30 years old
- Accounting or Management Graduate
- Experience in General Accounting works is an advantage
- Must be proficient in typing
- High computer literacy (Windows, MS Word, Excel, Etc.)
- Must be proficient in oral and written communication
- Articulate, organized and can work with minimum supervision

Please bring 2 x 2 ID picture and necessary documents to:
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OCTOBER 9, 2007
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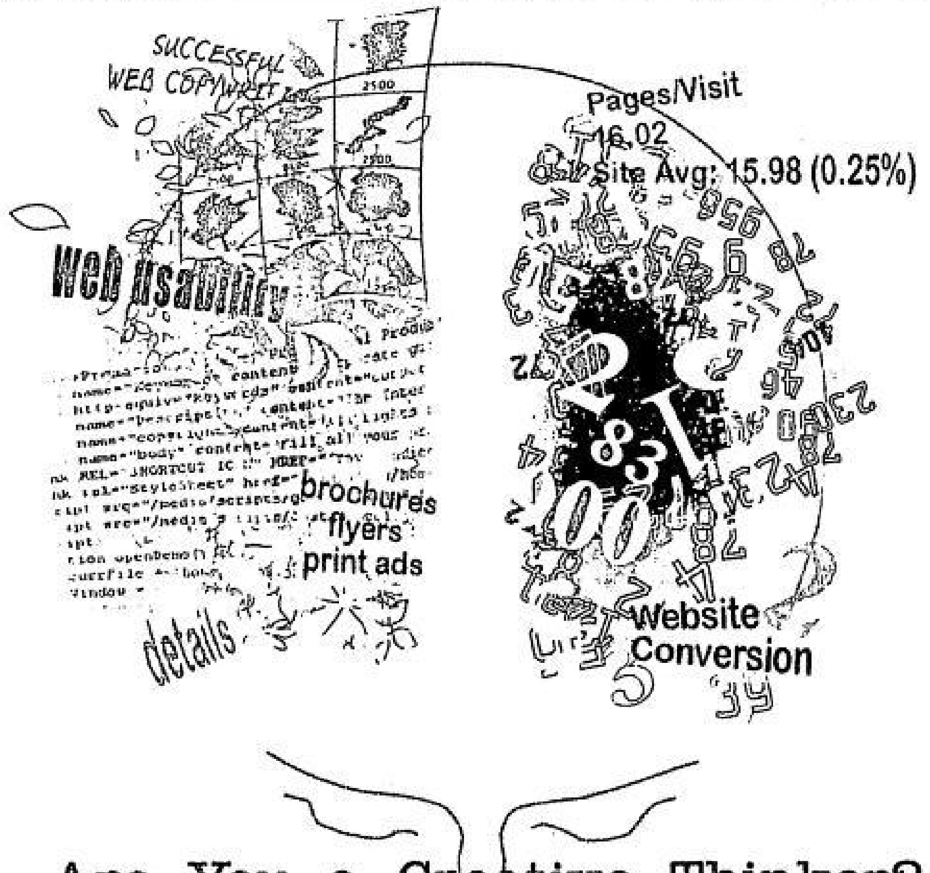

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- Should Cost Modeling
- eProcurement
- eContract Management
- Procurement Outsourcing
- Procurement Education & Certifications

Top reasons why you must attend:

- Be part of our professional movement in promoting best practices & continuing education in procurement as well as learn best practices & how to develop a road map for your organization's Strategic Procurement
- Listen about case studies of companies who've done world class practices in Procurement and see for yourself best-in-class "live" procurement technology enablers that really works
- Know the various avenues & options to professionalize your procurement.

Agenda:

- Procurement from backroom to the boardroom
- Spend visibility = job number one
- Strategic Sourcing methodology
- Should Cost Modeling
- eProcurement: Reaping the benefits
- eContract Management enables control
- Professionalizing Procurement through Education and Certification (C.P.M., CPSM)
- How to become part of our continuing education network

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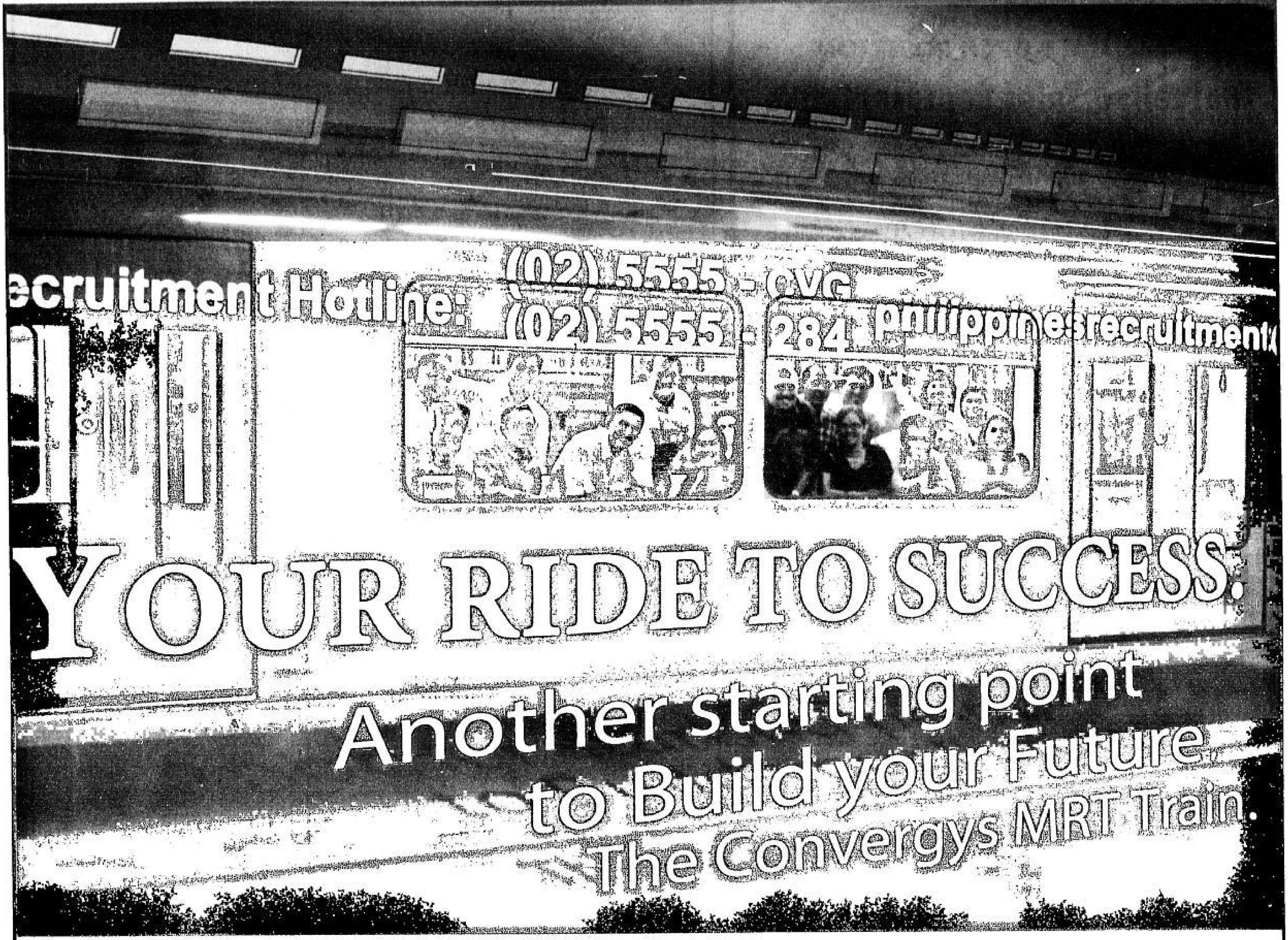

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Customer Care Representatives - *Landline Specialist*
Customer Care Representatives - *Inbound Sales*
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Technical Customer Care Representative
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**Applicants can come in casual attire from August - October*

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Project Manager

- Ability to work on problem where analysis of situation require.
- 45-50 years old
- Know how to speak Korean language
- 10-15 years experience as a Project Manager in construction

Construction Manager

- Highly organized and with strong leadership
- 45-50 years old
- 10 years Managerial experience in construction
- Know how to speak Korean language
- With knowledge in project cost, bids and document

Assistant Construction Manager

- 35-40 years old
- 5 years experience in construction
- Know how to speak Korean language
- With engineering experience is an advantage

Administration Manager

- Male; between 35-45 years old
- 5 years experience as an Administration Manager
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- ☐ Computer literate
- ☐ Preferably with experience
- ☐ Must be honest, trustworthy & diligent

ACCOUNTING CLERKS

- ☐ Female, single
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- ☐ Must be computer literate
- ☐ With good scholastic record

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- ☐ Female, single
- ☐ Accounting Graduate
- ☐ Must be computer literate
- ☐ With good scholastic record

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- ☐ Male, not more than 35 years old
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- ☐ Good personality, honest, trustworthy & diligent

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The Development Office invites applicants for the position:

Secretary III (2007-P-102)

Job summary : The successful candidate shall provide secretarial and administrative services to the Development Director and the activities and projects of the Development Office (DO). This includes coordination of the office's schedules, communication, logistical requirements including mail, database, filing, budgets, administration of supplies, phone inquiries, meetings, activity planning, and appointments plus other duties as may be requested by the Development Director

Qualification requirements:

- College graduate in secretarial administration, business management or related field.
- At least 5 years experience in secretarial/administrative work or office management
- Ability to manage databases/records: computer literate (multimedia) and proficient in Microsoft, Excel, Acrobat, Outlook, PowerPoint, database etc; Excellent in oral and written communication and interpersonal skills. She/he must also have strong self and work organization ability.

Officer - Development (2007-P-103)

Job summary Working closely with the Development Director and the Development Office's Associate Development Manager (Assistant Manager II), the successful candidate shall develop new fundraising opportunities/contacts and assist in the cultivation of potential donors.

Qualification requirements:

- College graduate, preferably with Business degree or related field.
- At least 4 years experience in data research/analysis and database management
- Ability to develop/manage database(s); excellent in data research; computer literate; above average oral and written communication skills; strong interpersonal skills.

Interested candidates can access the complete job description by visiting the Institute's Website at http://www.irri.org./jobs/national.asp

Application: *Qualified applicants should send a letter of application, a comprehensive resumé, transcript of records and names and contact details of three referees via email to IRRIRecruitment@cgiar.org or submit to:*

Secretary III (2007-P-102) /Officer-Development (2007-P-103) as applicable
Human Resource Services - National Staff
INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE
DAPO Box 7777 Metro Manila

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for assessment and interview.

IRRI is an equal opportunity organization and believes in gender & diversity. IRRI therefore encourages qualified women professionals to apply.
*** Selection process will begin on 5 October 2007 and will continue until a suitable candidate is identified**

Bayer CropScience

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All applicants should have the following qualifications:

Education:

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Experience:

- ➢ *At least Ten (10) Years Experience in Human Resources, two years of which in a supervisory capacity preferably from a manufacturing/chemical company*
- ➢ *Basic Knowledge of Labor Laws*

Skills:

- ➢ *Excellent Leadership and Decision-Making Ability*
- ➢ *Above Average Communication and Interpersonal Skills*
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Other Qualifications:

Male or Female, in the 30's up to mid 40's, Computer Literate

ONLY QUALIFIED CANDIDATES

are requested to email their resumé with pictures to
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not later than **October 12, 2007**

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Knowledgeable in non-linear video editing.
Proficiency in Chinese would be an advantage.

WAREHOUSE LOGISTICS PERSONNEL
Knows how to drive and possesses driver's license would be an advantage.

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To design, develop and maintain Foundation's website.
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- Communicate effectively with individuals/teams in the program to ensure high quality and timely expedition of customer requests.
- Effectively transfer misdirected customer requests to an appropriate party.
- Contribute ideas to resolve problems to better serve the customer and/or improve productivity.
- Participate in activities designed to improve customer satisfaction and business performance.
- Occasionally use decision-support tools to answer questions.
- Solve problems that may be unstructured and that may require reliance on conceptual thinking.
- Offer solutions to issues that are often non-standard/non-routine and require some clarification.

Your Qualifications

- Direct experience and knowledge of general accounting principles is a must.
- Knowledge of Quickbooks or any ERP, CRM and Web products is a definite plus.
- A minimum of 2 years of call center (technical / customer) organization providing email and telephone support is required.
- Expert knowledge of Internet, browsers and web navigation is required
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Highly enthusiastic, positive minded, service oriented individual.
- Troubleshooting skills

Support Specialist (Web-ecommerce/CRM)

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- Develop and maintain up-to-date knowledge of our constantly expanding and evolving set of products and services through internal training and self-training
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- Maintain high customer satisfaction through the use of proper phone etiquette, active listening and customer service skills
- Work in a dynamic team environment to ensure customer requests are rerouted accurately and efficiently to the right resource.
- Communicate customer-reported issues with our Quality Assurance and Development teams using established guidelines.
- Design creative solutions to non-standard problems and modify existing solutions to resolve non-routine problems.

Your Qualifications

- Solid experience with JavaScript and HTML is a must
- Experience with Web Design, Web Development and general Internet infrastructure is strongly recommended
- Experience with any ASP/SaaS software or any ERP, CRM and Web/E-Commerce is a definite plus
- A minimum of 2 years of call center (technical / customer) organization providing email and telephone support is required.
- Direct experience and knowledge of general accounting principles is recommended
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Highly enthusiastic, positive minded, service oriented individual.
- Demonstrated troubleshooting skills. Superb analytical and critical thinking skills
- Ability to think "outside-the-box"

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Establish pillars to balance your life

Impact of work and career on family and marriage

By George Kohlrieser and Nick Shreiber
International Institute for Management Development, Switzerland

BALANCE IN LIFE IS ABSOLUTELY necessary for sustained high-performance leadership. Putting personal health, family and professional relationships, mental sharpness at risk with an unbalanced life style, creates the danger that leaders will ultimately fail in one form or another.

Good business and good leadership demands self-mastery of the choices we make in our lives. As never before, managers at all levels must ask "how is the balance in my life?", and have the courage to take control, by what ever means, to live a "quality of life." Otherwise we are likely to become a "hostage" to demands around us, causing pain to those we love, our employees, and to ourselves, leading to serious negative consequences. It is myth that to be a high performer and to succeed at the highest levels, work life-balance must be sacrificed.

We can all establish pillars of life-balance that work for us. These pillars can be work/career, family/friends, personal interests (hobbies, sports, philanthropy). Additional pillars, such as spirituality and religion, community service and voluntary work, or accumulation of wealth can be added if they are the right ones for you. Time is scarce and must be divided, to ensure balance is maintained across the pillars.

Make balance sustainable

Make sure that none of your pillars take over your life completely and overpower other pillars permanently. It may happen temporarily, but you have to be careful that it does not become a long term trend. Whenever one pillar grows disproportionately large, conscious actions should be taken to redress the balance. Personal time is important. It is the time to reflect and focus your conscious mind on things outside work. It gives you spiritual satisfaction and increases brain processing time. Occupying your conscious mind with hobbies allows your unconscious mind to figuratively wander off and work undisturbed on its own thoughts.

Listen to your life chapters

There are numerous examples of employees and executives whose balanced lives help them be more creative, less stressed, and maintain sustained high performance. In addition, hobbies and personal interests can make you a more interesting person.

Visualize your life as a book. Each chapter must have a beginning, middle and end. Listen to your life chapters actively, with all your senses:

Doing so can help bring balance to your life.

What are some signs that chapters end?

- When business goals and personal objectives are achieved.
- When stagnation occurs—you may find yourself on the wrong track and feel dissatisfied.
- When you feel a need to change priorities—attain new skills and new horizons.

Following life chapters allows you to be in touch with your own compass and not follow agendas set by others. As a leader, you may want to help raise awareness of life chapters for others by coaching and acting as a sounding board. Coaching should include those executives who are underperforming. However, no favor is made to continually underperforming executives by finding a slot for them elsewhere in the organization. It only prolongs their agony and delays the inevitable. These executives should often be encouraged to leave—to finish their chapter, and move on to the next stage of their lives.

Preach what you practice

Leaders should find the time and energy to talk publicly about the benefits of finding balance. They are watched and listened to, and can instill change. Show deep respect for employees' interests. Take direct actions—insist that your employees take holidays (not payouts as compensation for untaken vacation), as well as time off to pursue personal interests.

Express yourself fully

Today, young employees enter the workforce with expectations of having more time for balance in their lives. They aren't necessarily focused on corporate loyalty or status symbols. Their workplace focus is more on relationships and outcomes. They expect greater workplace flexibility.

Each generation has its own distinct values, view of authority, connection to the world, sense of loyalty and expectations of leaders and the workplace.

Select a way of life that is congruent with your own personal qualities, values and needs. In essence, all life components are tied to your identity. Your physical, emotional, mental and spiritual being is connected and needs harmony. Expressing yourself fully requires a lot of awareness, effort and careful planning.

Value time—life is finite. Time is lost when you're involved in activities you don't enjoy or add value to your life. Clarify your needs, values and purpose. Note activities that energize you and let your creativity blossom. Identify skills and accomplishments that give you a sense of pride and purpose. If you do not have a hobby, get one.

There are models of highly successful leaders who do manage their life in a way that they maintain balance and get great business results. They never let themselves or their life be a "hostage" to anyone, anything, anytime, anywhere.

(The authors are professors at the IMD in Switzerland—Kohlrieser teaches in the High Performance Leadership program while Shreiber is the former President and CEO of the Tetra Pak Group, a $10-billion-firm.)

The virtue of self- discipline

L-EARNING MOMENTS

Tita Datu Puangco

A QUESTION POSED BY A JAPANESE client of mine on his observation of Filipino workers in his company, made me reflect: How come workers, when they reach a certain level of productivity, are not enthusiastic to improve performance? Instead, they get tired easily and productivity is quick to slide. They are not able to move to the next level.

His question brought me back to when I was studying total quality management in Japan. We saw Japanese workers focus on solving a problem using the fishbone technique for hours. Very quickly afterwards, they started to address the main cause and solved the problem. What I witnessed was the virtue of discipline.

For our 8th L-earning Moments column, I wish to talk about the virtue of self-discipline in a leader. According to Webster, discipline is "the art of disciplining oneself, with regard to feelings, desires and will power."

Discipline, is defined as "training and conditioning to produce obedience and self-control."

Why is self-discipline critical to self-leadership? Only with self-discipline can we remain focused and able to deliver maximum results.

Self-discipline allows us to plod on—not to quit, till we produce clear and outstanding results.

What are the key ingredients of self-discipline?

Let me begin with the art of disciplining the will power. Here we see three dimensions: one, is the power of focus on the pursuit of the right goals, two is the total quality mindset and three is continuous improvement and innovation.

Focus on goals

Set goals and achieve them. Have a clear vision of what you want to achieve. List your goals and write out in detail the action steps to achieve them. Then act to achieve them. Remember the Chinese proverb, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step." What happens when a person does not have goals? He tends to get distracted; he is in his comfort zone and tends to scatter his energies over many activities.

My management 101 favorite principle is Pareto's Law. Very simply it is called the 20-80 principle—20 percent of the things we do deliver 80 percent of the results and 80 percent of the things we do deliver only 20 percent of the results. Self-discipline requires that my energies should focus on the "vital fews" rather than "trivial manys."

Total quality mindset

Two, is to achieve the total quality mindset. Professor Rene Domingo of the Asian Institute of Management defines total quality as "doing the right things right the first time." I discovered that having this mindset saves a person a lot of time and effort.

Your set goals allow you to focus on the right things. Do things right the first time. This is important because rework is *muda* as the Japanese would speak of waste. It takes discipline to write a memo right the first time. It takes discipline to prepare my things for work, I get everything I need packed right the first time. When I meet a client, I come prepared with all my questions so that I can get all the information I need right the first time.

Continuous improvement

Three is continuous improvement or *kaizen*. Everyday, I have to do things better and better. The person who is open to learning and seizes opportunities for improvement in his or her work, soon discovers that close to perfection is possible. The focus on continuous improvement can also apply for the discipline of innovation. To pursue *kaizen* is to possess the humility to recognize that learning starts when one admits mistakes. One guideline I find most useful is the mantra for me "to do things today better than yesterday." Improvement can relate to both task and process.

An example for me in improving a task, "I will get a proposal done in an hour's time if I did it for two hours yesterday." An example for me of improving process is, "Can I give clearer instructions to my assistant today than yesterday?"

The other side of self-discipline is training and conditioning feelings and desires. There are three dimensions required of leaders in this area.

One, the need to acquire good habits; two, the ability to motivate one's self; and three, the capability to maximize one's day through proper time, stress and lifestyle management.

Acquire good habits

Charles Dickens shares the foundation of his success. "I never could have done without the habits of punctuality, order and diligence … The determination to concentrate myself on one subject at a time." We have to be peaceful when we put in order the things around us. When the effort causes us anxiety we become obsessive compulsive causing us to upset people around us.

Many people start projects without completing them. A good habit is to complete every project that is worth doing. A complex project must be broken down into discrete parts, so that the person has a sense of closure for each part. This gives the person the energy and enthusiasm to move forward.

Motivate yourself

Two, motivate yourself and others to achieve your dreams. This is one of the 10 rules of Sam Walton, founder of Wal-Mart, who revolutionized the retailing industry through high expectations and a "never say die" attitude. He also urged that people commit to success and always be passionate.

It was written that Walton often goes to work before 4 a.m. so that he could review the previous day's reports before his executive team comes.

What a show of commitment. We encourage you to be passionate while maintaining work-life balance.

Manage time and stress

Time is a limited resource. A leader gets things done by managing time and stress. In a highly accelerated work environment, time moves quickly. The idea is to have clear priorities and be guided by them. Then manage stress by standing up and taking a 3-5 minute breather from your work.

We hope the time will come when Filipinos will be known, not just for our outstanding social and amiable interpersonal skills but also for the tenacity of self-discipline. *Ningas cogon* has no place in people who want to be self leaders.

This article on teamwork is the 8th of the series of 10. Those who missed the past 7 columns, you can download them at the Ancilla website: www.ancillaedc.com.ph or fax request at 892-2902.

(The author is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. Feedback at l-earningmoments @ancillaedc.com.ph, or fax 892-2902.)

Gospel. Luke 16: 19-31

Abraham replied, 'My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented.

Equalizer in work

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

ONE OF THE ARGUMENTS SOME HAVE THROWN AGAINST THE RE-ligion Jesus founded is that it is like an "opium for the people" particularly of the "working class" of society—a promise of comfort and happiness after slaving and suffering here in this earthly life. Such view would emphasize the sole importance of earthly well-being and the equal sharing of both burden and pleasure for everyone here in this lifetime. This view, if applied to the world of work, would expect that everyone would be engaged for the same amount of working hours, loaded the same volume of work, paid with the same or equal compensation and treated in exactly the same way in everything here and now.

Such perspective, however, is not the reality in any workplace on this planet. There seems to be an apparent inequality among workers, employers and others involved in the world of work. No company or business could run successfully with only "chiefs and no Indians" or with only the labor force without the management staff; each sector has an equally important role to play for the success of the enterprise. Each one in his or her role and assigned task could contribute to the welfare of the company in the same way. The apparent inequality among everyone in the workplace would seem to be offset by the unity and harmony of everyone's motive to work for each other and for the good of everyone. The intensity of love shown by everyone makes all kinds of work, big or small, equal in value and importance.

Such kind of love is what Jesus taught by words and example to the believers. This "opium" of Christian love which could inspire the work and labor of everyone in the workplace could also satisfy everyone's needs in this lifetime and in the next. (*E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net*)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Inspired by an ant

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

THERE IS A SEASON OF WANT AND A SEASON OF PLENTY—THAT IS what our featured Gospel verse seems to remind us today. In our work, it is best to rely on our own self-discipline in time of abundance, so that we may have something to tide us over in time of need. Despite our best plans and efforts, we can never be sure of what's to come up next. Remember 9/11, when a tiny airplane crashed into a massive edifice in New York and in a matter of minutes a symbol of might and wealth collapsed? Come to think of it: is there anything or anyone in the workplace you can really count on in time of dire need? Say if the business falls, or you lose your job or the sole family breadwinner dies? Insurance systems can only do so much, and your most reliable friends can only go with you so far.

Some OFWs come to learn their lesson the hard way: once they get a job the first thing they buy abroad is a car. Then they adapt the lifestyle and habits of the rich—acquiring things, "dressing in fine linen … and dining sumptuously…", keeping up with the Joneses, so to speak—and then return to the Philippines poorer than ever. "Poorer" because in the intervening years their families also fall apart: the spouses get into illicit affairs and their children fail to learn to appreciate hard-earned money. Other OFWs practise restraint—living frugally and investing wisely, both financially and emotionally—thus they enjoy the fruits of their labor and moderation at retirement time.

You need not be an OFW to realize the same thing could happen to you. And we need not even wait for judgment day to have a taste of heaven (or hell) as we carve our own destiny here on earth. Just think of the ant—an industrious insect that saves up for a rainy day—and be inspired to act in accordance with the Lord's teachings. (*E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com*)

Steps to help you up the corporate ladder

By Rowena M. Beloso
Contributor

PICTURE THIS IN YOUR MIND—YOU are in the company of VIP guests at a posh dining place. You panic—a million questions rush into your head: Am I dressed right? Will I remember which fork to use for what and where I start? What do I say and how do I say it?

Image, whether we like it not, is a powerful tool, and projecting the right kind of image, be it personal or corporate, is vital to one's success. It is human nature that we all want to be liked and appreciated, and we all desire to make a good impression.

Social psychologists say first impression happens in just seven seconds.

During those few seconds we are judged by the way we look, sound, walk, act and carry ourselves as individuals or part of a group. People who are skilled in making good impressions generally command a higher degree of personal power, trust and credibility. A person who moves and talks with confidence is believed to have a competitive edge in making it to the top.

Some elements that affect our image include our outward appearance, speech, carriage and the way we conduct.

Here are tools to help you in your climb up the corporate ladder:

Look the part. We have always heard of the expression "Dress for success."

Nothing could be farther than the truth. Statistics show that how we appear speaks volumes about us and is sometimes more important than what we verbally have to say. Dressing for success does not mean donning the latest in fashion.

Develop your own personal style by being aware of your body type, height, complexion. Invest in classic, timeless wardrobe such as a basic suit, skirt and tailored pants in neutral colors. Add a dash of color and pizzazz by throwing in a beautiful scarf or a smart necktie round your neck. Elegance is simplicity, not glitz or flash. Men and women who come out stylish are the ones who do not simply follow the trends.

Watch your posture. A basic fact—a person is able to project confidence by having the proper posture. Posture is the foundation of a person's bearing and make up. The moment you walk into a room, how you move and carry yourself is directly related to the attention and respect that you may receive from others. Have you ever wondered why a lady who moves with poise and grace seems more attractive and confident while a man who projects a dignified stance would command more respect from peers and colleagues? Proper sitting, standing and walking is more often a learned skill. Try to watch and observe people who personify such: shoulders back, stomach in, back straight with knees and arms in a relaxed position, confident gait, purposeful strides. Learn proper posture—till it becomes second nature!

Beware of your body language. If slouching is no good, too stiff a posture is just as bad. Do you know that a simple crossing of your arms across your chest means you are not open to the other person's ideas. Putting your hands behind you can make you look shy and insignificant. Scratching your head or rubbing your nose while speaking gives an impression that you yourself are not sold to your ideas, and so affects your credibility in a large scale. Make a conscious effort to avoid such mannerisms.

Polish your communication skills. You may have brilliant ideas but if you can't get them across, your brain won't get you anywhere. Read as much as you can on anything under the sun. Bits and pieces of a variety of information will help you navigate through conversations and small talks necessary in networking or building professional relationships with others. Learn from people. Learn to listen. Great listening skills pave the way to being an excellent communicator.

Know your manners. Studies indicate that over half of all business are done over the dining table. By being aware of your etiquette—from handing out business cards to introducing people, entertaining guests to the intricacies of which fork to use in formal dining—takes out the awkwardness in social and business situations. Savvy dining and social skills can actually enhance your career and play a great role in your business and professional success. Treat others with tact and courtesy. As one etiquette guru would put it, "the ultimate goal of etiquette is to make another person happy and comfortable." Simply said, good manners is all about thoughtfulness, which may get back to you 10 times fold.

Having poise, confidence and a positive attitude are just some of the most important strengths a person can possess. It may not be the only way to help you reach your highest dreams and desires but it surely helps a lot, not only in your professional success but in your personal life as well. So go ahead, make an impression!

(The author conducts workshops and seminars on speech, poise and etiquette. Feedback at swanlake_couture@yahoo.com or 0915-826 993)

WE'RE TURNING 12!
MAY CONTEST SA PAGE 5!

Junior
INQUIRER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2007 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 10, NUMBER 79

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

Take a peek at the newest ride to hit the streets
Page 3

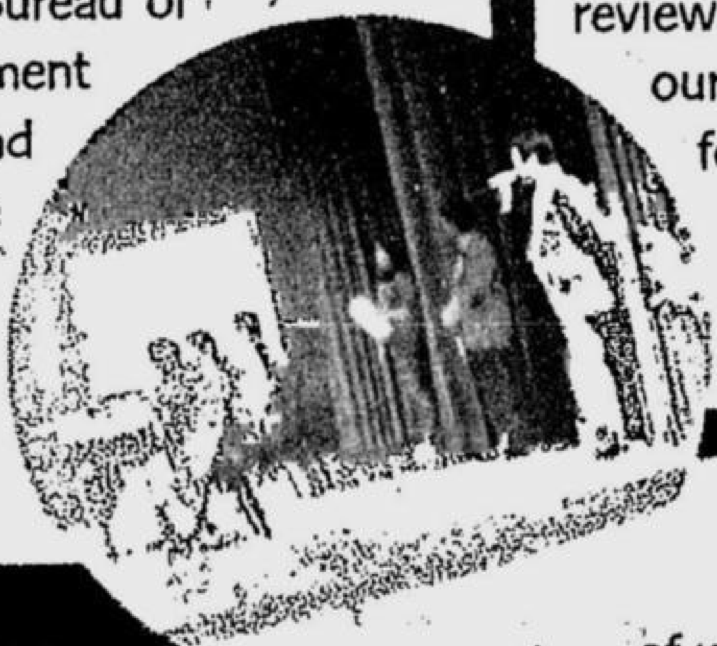
Meet the ozone experts!

By Ruth L. Navarra

WITHOUT OPENING a book or surfing the Web, would you be able to talk about the ozone layer?

Most of us only know that the ozone layer is part of the earth's atmosphere, and that it protects us from the harmful rays of the sun.

But if you ask 16-year-old Lawrence Medina and 15-year-old Paulo Miguel Mazanilla, they can tell you much, much more. These students of the Philippine Science High School are experts in Ozone Science! They won the national online quiz organized by the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and represented our country in the Asia-Pacific Ozone Quiz Competition in Bangkok, Thailand on Aug. 20-21.



"We studied everything about Ozone Science and the Montreal Protocol for two months," says Paulo. The Montreal Protocol is an agreement signed by 191 countries, all committing to reduce and eliminate production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances.

All that time spent studying paid off—Paulo and Lawrence won the grand prize in the Ozone Quiz organized by the United Nations Environment Programme. They bested 15 other pairs from countries Afghanistan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Iran, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

"The competition in Thailand was very intense because most of the questions were memorization-based. We didn't memorize our review materials because we focused our review on concepts and formulas. We only got our lead over finalists Sri Lanka and Thailand when we were asked conceptual questions," says Paulo.

They received US$1,500 as a prize, half of which went to their school.

"We're thinking of using the money to buy (environmental) posters and tarpaulins to raise awareness among other students. We're also planning to use some of the money to be used in planting of trees in our school," says their coach Cynthia Andaya.

As the winners of the Asia-Pacific region, they got the chance to join the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol in Montreal, Canada on Sept. 16.

"Sometimes you feel that there's nothing you can do as a student to stop global warming because we're not the major polluters. We're not the ones buying the car or furniture that can destroy the ozone," says Paulo. "But once you become aware of the things that you can do, you find out that there are little ways that we could do to help stop the global warming. A simple thing like throwing your garbage in its proper place is one of them."

We don't need to all become ozone experts, but we do need to do our part in saving the ozone layer, and the world.

Guyito's Corral

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2005 Best Children's Newspaper Awardee Hall of Fame

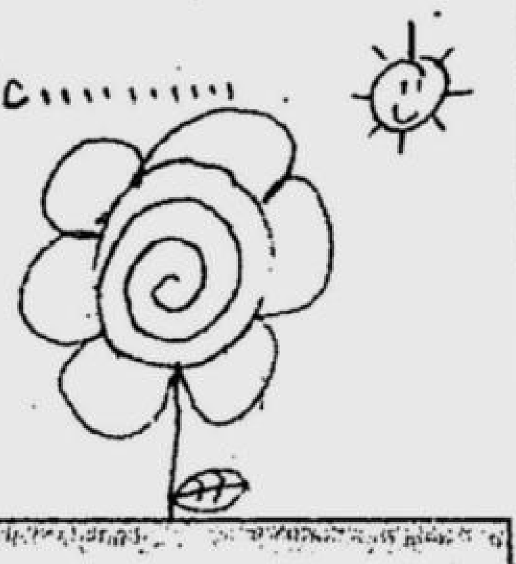
Dear JI,

Every Sunday morning, I always remember the newspaper is coming with JI. My brother, my older sister and I always ask the copy from my mom. We can read it after doing our homework. When it's Monday I always tell my friends that JI has new things like drawings, comics and letters. Reading JI is fun and enjoyable.

Please put an Activity corner for kids to answer.

You are JI riffic..........

-Ma. Chrissa T. Guico
8 yrs. old
St. Mary's School
Cagayan de Oro City



We think you're JI-riffic too, Chrissa! Please email Ate Dianne at ji@inquirer.com.ph to find out how you can get our thank-you gift.

—your JI "ates"

Journal

Hope

by Christine Leean M. Tria

12 years old, Cainta, Rizal

HOPE IS A CAT, AND a stray one at that.

He was one of those cats that you see on the streets, searching for food. He was one of those cats that some people consider ugly.

But in the eyes of my titas, he wasn't ugly. They took him home and gave him food. My titas and lola took care of him like he was family. And it wasn't a one-way relationship. Hope took care of them, too.

Whenever my lola was home alone, he would stay with her. He would chase rats, cockroaches, and other little pests out of the house. He would even show my titas and lola the dead bodies as proof before he threw them out.

Hope was healthy and strong, but there was a time he had bruises everywhere. He had a bruised eye, a bruised nose, and a bruised ear. You can just imagine!

Even when Hope got sick, he still stayed at home. When Tita Moe brought him to the vet, the vet said that he was surprised that someone would bring a *pusakal* to be treated. Well, *pusakal* or not, Hope was family. Just because we think someone is ugly that doesn't mean he can't have what the "pretty" ones have. After all, beauty isn't seen on the outside, right?

I think Hope got everything a cat would ever dream of. He had a home, a family that loved him and took care of him. He even had some cat friends.

Hope is dead now. That's sad to hear, isn't it? But we'll always remember him, no matter what. He will always be the cat closest to my heart.

Want to get to know other JI readers like you? Want to write to our Snoops? Or do you simply want to be the first to know about JI promos? Join our yahoogroup! Just send a blank e-mail to jireaders-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

By Guile Domingo

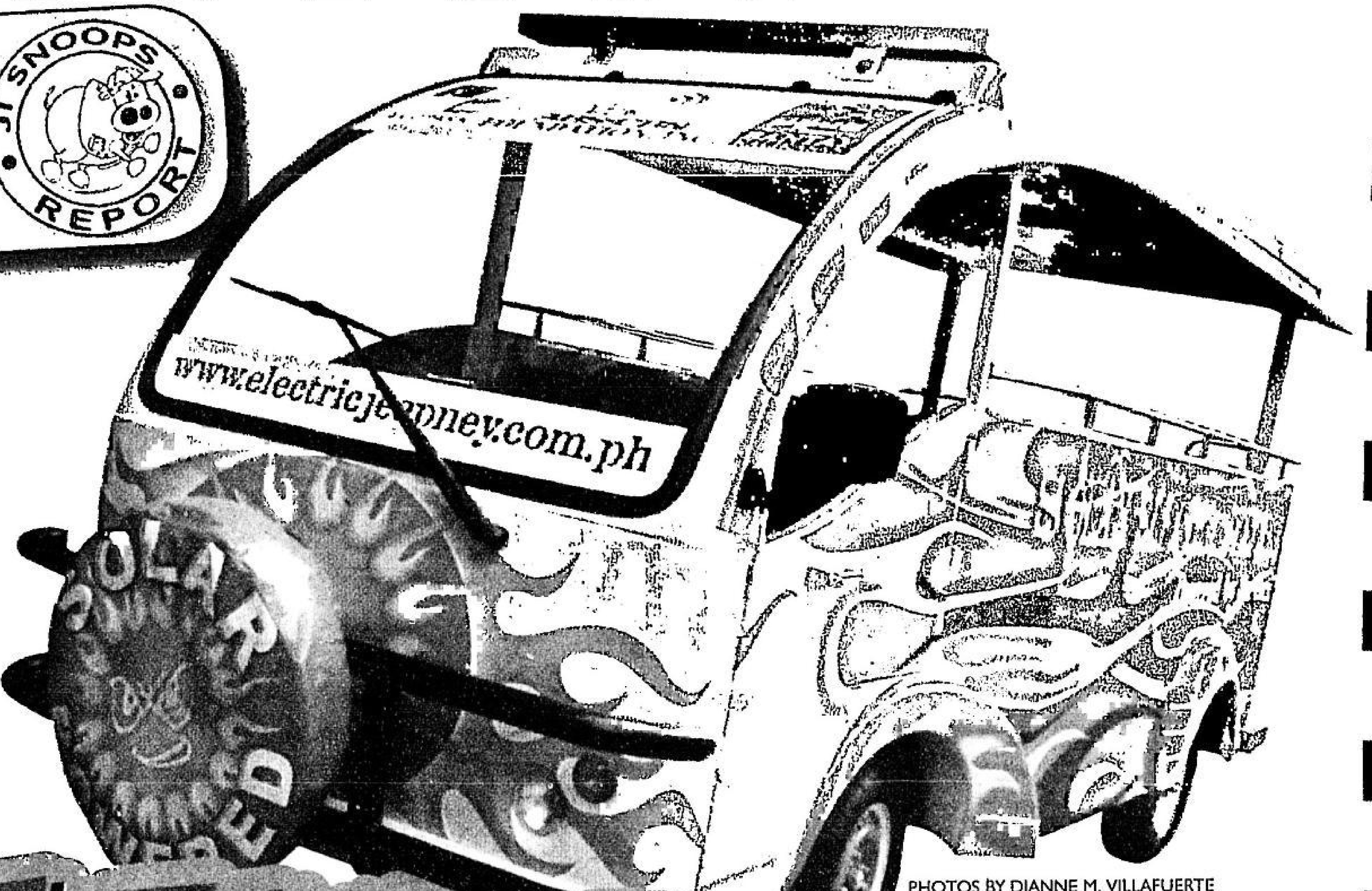
12 years old

Quezon City

JI SNOOPS REPORT

WHY DIDN'T I hear this jeep approaching? It didn't make any noise. I couldn't even smell the smoke that a jeepney would normally belch.

I found out that it's because this jeepney is not running on gasoline —instead, it uses electricity!



PHOTOS BY DIANNE M. VILLAFUERTE

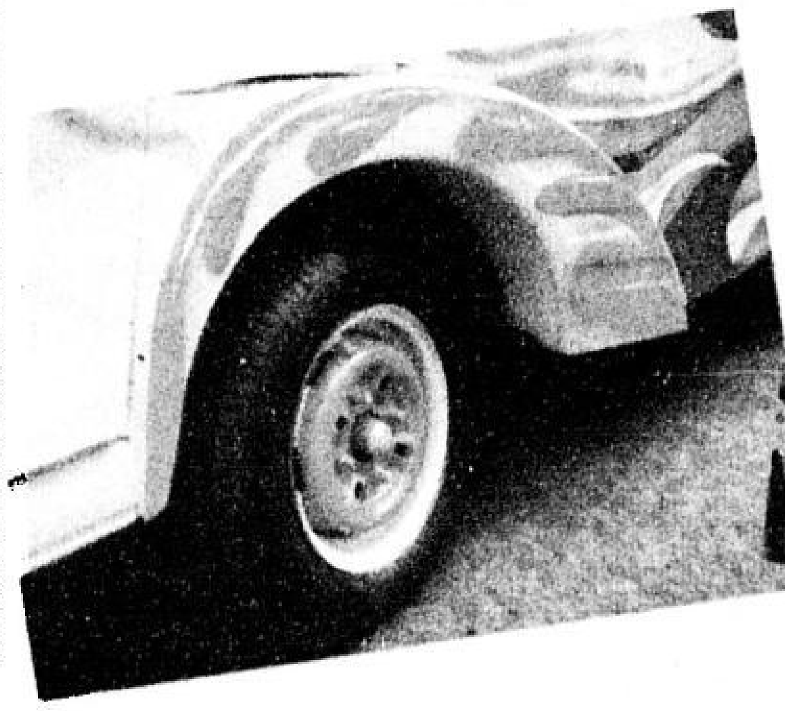
A NEW RIDE

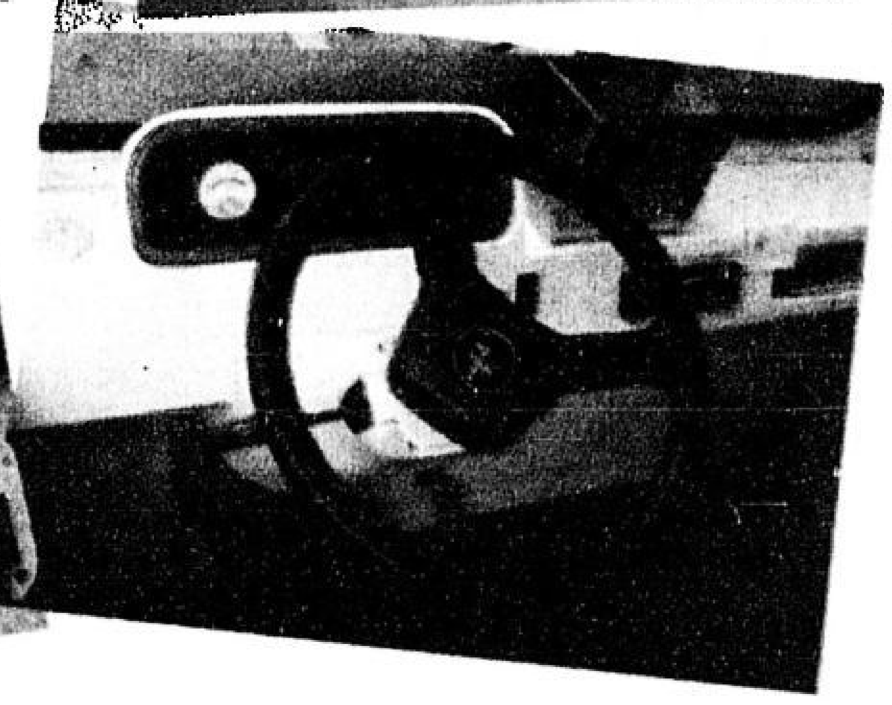
The E-Jeepney does not have a gas tank. Instead, it has a battery compartment with six humongous batteries that can be charged in special stations. The batteries can also be recharged while on the go: solar panels on the jeepney's roof can harness the sun's power.

This special jeepney was developed by a company called Solar Electric Company (Solarco). Mr. Bobby Julian and Dr. James Simpas of Solarco told me that the jeepney took around six to seven months to build. They showed me the vehicle's motor, which looks like a bigger version of the ones you see in remote-controlled cars. They also told me that it can run at a maximum speed of 40 kilometers per hour, and carry a load of 840 kilograms.

But the best thing about the e-jeepney is that it's environment-friendly. This was proven to me when I went for a ride. It was a wonderful experience! The sounds from the surroundings were not drowned out by a noisy engine. I got a whiff of fresh air instead of the stench of smoke. And now, that global warming is looming before us, it's good to know that this vehicle is not only pollutant-free, but runs on renewable energy as well.

Right now, the e-jeepney can only be seen in the cities of Makati and Bacolod. Solarco is making more electric-powered vehicles which will hopefully be used in more places here in the Philippines. I personally hope people support this project because it's an opportunity to make a brighter future for everyone who calls the earth their home.





WassUp World?

Quezon City, PHILIPPINES

Healing art

WOUNDED Filipino soldiers work on a painting during the Chulas Paint Festival at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center. The art program from the Foundation for Hospital Art serves as therapy for soldiers recovering from wounds they got during battles with insurgents and communist rebels.

AP

Vienna, AUSTRIA

Not yet a giant

THIS one-month-old cub of giant pandas gets some rest in its living space in a zoo in Vienna. The cub's parents, Yang Yang and Long Hui, were transferred from China to Schoenbrunn Zoo in 2003. They are on loan to Austria by China for a period of 10 years.

Reuters

Manila, PHILIPPINES

Happy when it rains

EVER heard the joke, how many clowns can fit in a car? We don't know the answer to that, but we do know how many passengers managed to get on this pedicab: 16! They're on their way to Manila Bay to go swimming in the midst of heavy rains.

Inquirer Photo / Ryan Lim

Jiangsu, CHINA

Everybody dance now!

WELL, we mean everybody who isn't human. These robots perform a dance at a science and technology center in Nanjing. The eight robots, each measuring 10 inches in height, were made by a working group from the University of Science and Technology of China.

Reuters

Colorado, USA

Unique cycles

BORED with your bike? Why not try riding a unicycle? Elijah Butts and his friends in Loveland, Colorado started riding unicycles a little over a year ago. They said too many people were using bikes and skateboards.

AP

Think Out Loud!

WHAT WILL THE WORLD LOOK LIKE 100 YEARS FROM NOW?

Cars would start to fly and people would not need to walk because our sidewalks would move.—**Hanna Katrina Dipasupil**, 10, Occidental Mindoro

I think Jesus will rise up and take the darkness away.—**Omegs Gryeane Solis**, 10, General Santos City

If people will not be careful now, our world will be polluted and full of waste. —**Jasper Amadeus Opulencia**, 9, Tanauan City

The world will definitely be a better place because the kids now will be able to implement their dreams of caring for the world. We will become the leaders by then. —**Naej Kathleen Rogando**, 9, Angeles City

There will be cities under the sea.—**Jermaigne Joyce Tajonera**, 10, Occidental Mindoro

The world will be polluted and dirty because we throw garbage everywhere.—**Hezekiah Anthony Bon Magdalera**, 10, Butuan City

MAGBASA TAYO!
THIS IS YOUR DAY NANAY
SALI KAYO SA FATHER'S DAY PROMO! SEE PAGE 2!
TRANSFORM
THIS IS THE LIFE!

COOLER BY THE DOZEN

JI's turning 12, and we'd like to get dozens and dozens of letters from you!

Tell us what your favorite stories are from any of the JI issues that you've read in the past weeks, months, or even years. Send us a list of your TOP 12 Junior Inquirer stories, and tell us why your number one story occupies the top spot. We'll pick 12 winners to get very cool prizes!

Only kids aged 7 to 15 may join the contest. Email all entries to ji@inquirer.com.ph on or before Oct. 12, 2007. We'll be waiting!

PWEDE BA AKO MAG-GUEST DYAN?
GOOD LUCK GIRLS!
SAVE ENERGY!
KAYA KO 'TO!
SHARE TAYO?

Out There

WORLD ANIMAL DAY IS JUST around the corner and here are just some of the things to look out for for our furry friends!

ASPINS, UNITE! The Quezon City Veterinarian's Office is inviting aspins (asong Pinoys) and their humans to a talent contest on Oct. 8 dubbed, "Super Asong Pinoy". Cash prizes await the top three native dogs with the most superb talent and skills. For more information please call Dr. Ana Marie Cabel at 396-2129

* * *

THE GREAT DOG DASH. Bring your little doggies to Eastwood City Central Plaza on Sept. 30 at 3 p.m. for "The Great Dog Dash: Year 3" —a "race" for dogs measuring under 15 inches from tip of paw to top of the head. Registration fee is P200.

* * *

DR. DOGS AT MP. Catch the Philippine Animal Welfare Society's Dr. Dogs at Museo Pambata on Oct. 2 at 10 a.m. For inquiries, email philpaws@yahoo.com.

* * *

BLESS YOU! Bring your furry, feathered, and even scaly(!) friends to Eastwood City on Oct. 7 at 5 p.m. for the annual mass and animal blessing to celebrate World Animal Day. There will also be a procession in honor of St. Francis around Eastwood City. Even Bantay and Muning need to be blessed, too!

BY LEVEL-UP GAMES

RAGNAROK

THE NEURALIZER IS BACK WITH 3 NEW HEADGEAR! UP TO 70% OFF HYPERMART HEADGEAR & 10% BONUS ROK POINTS UNTIL OCT. 3! CELEBRATE EPISODE XV- RACHEL! FOR DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT HTTP://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH

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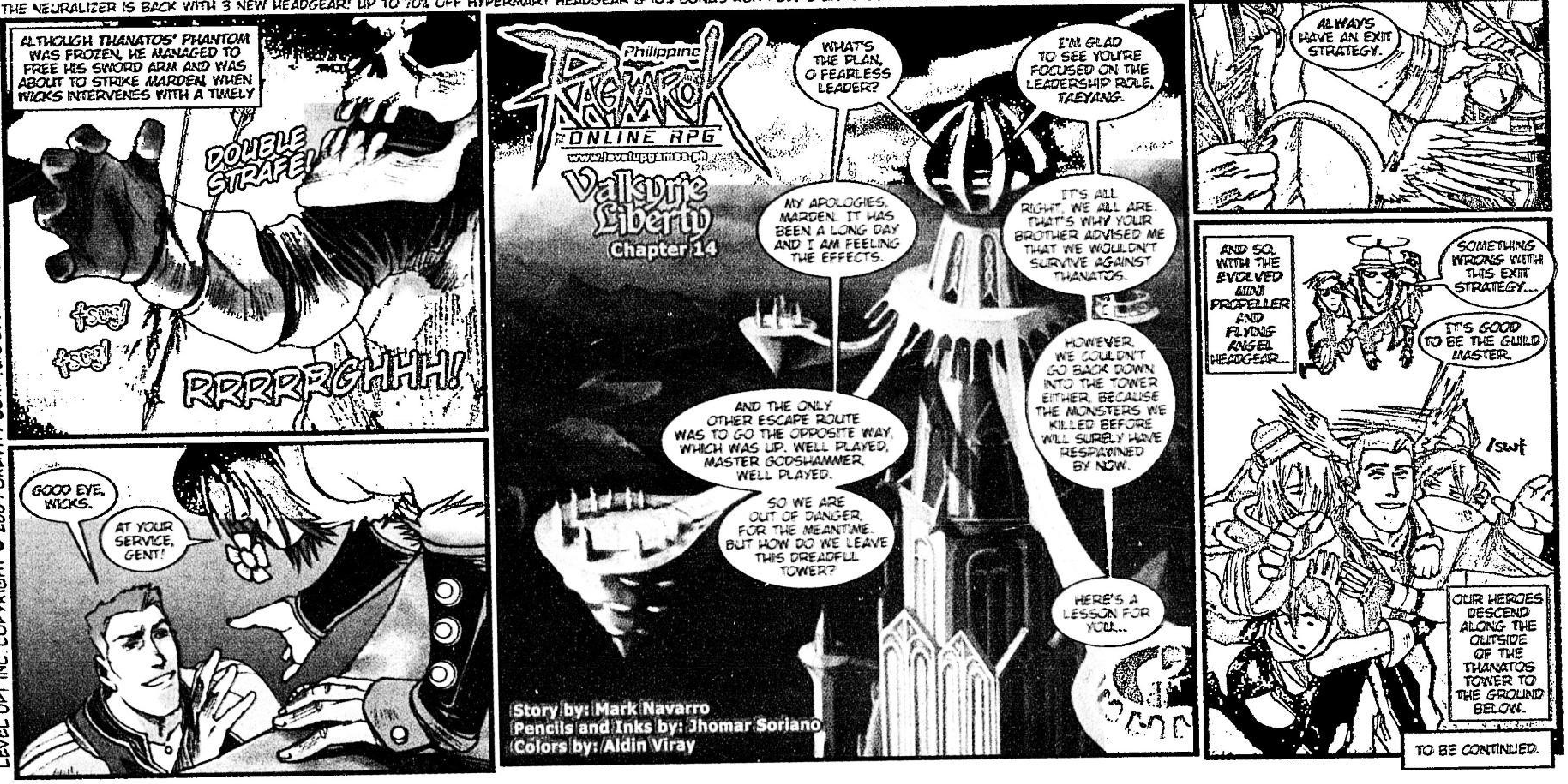
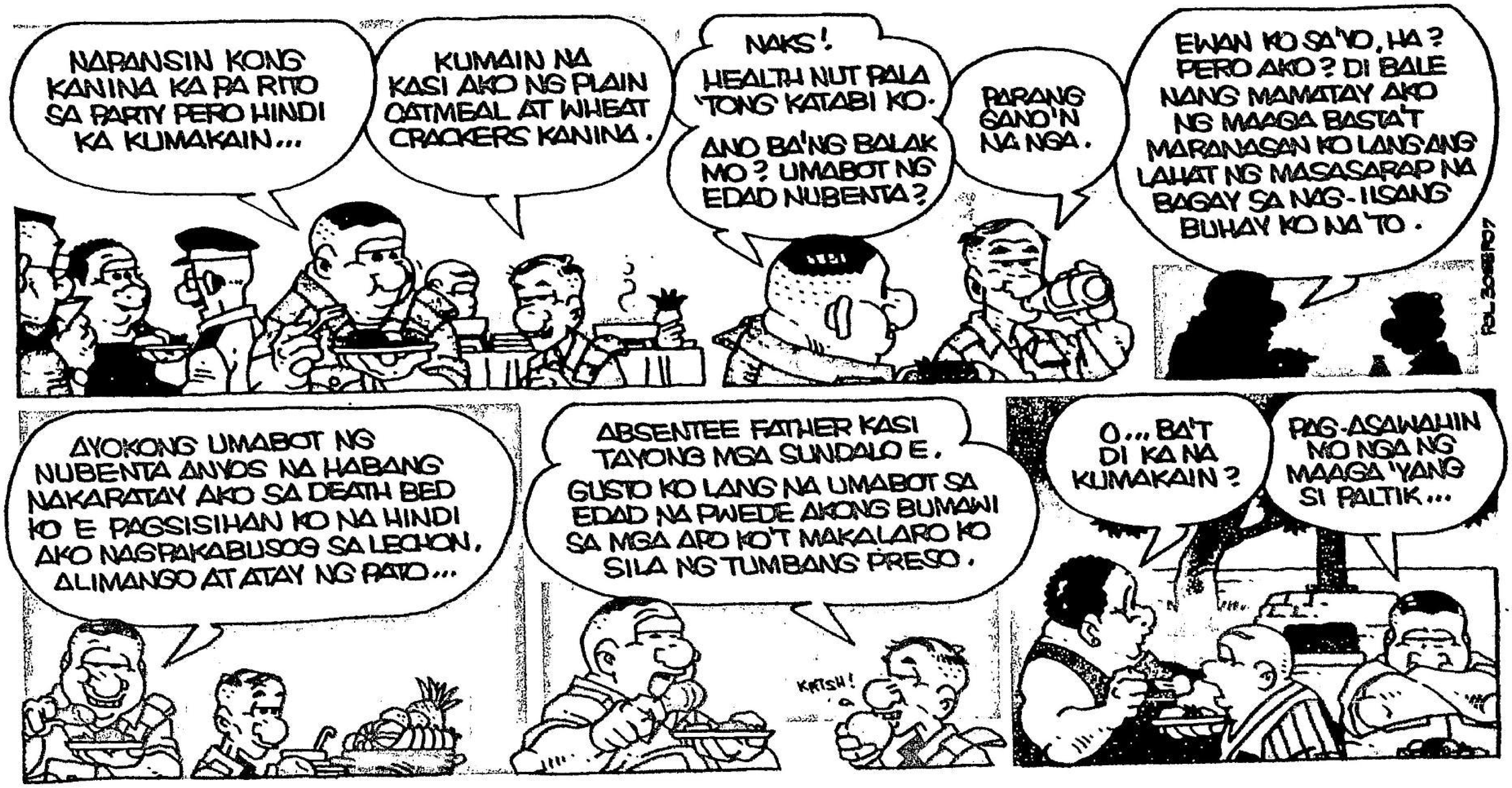

ALTHOUGH THANATOS' PHANTOM WAS FROZEN, HE MANAGED TO FREE HIS SWORD ARM AND WAS ABOUT TO STRIKE MARDEN, WHEN WICKS INTERVENES WITH A TIMELY
DOUBLE STRAFE!
tsog!
tsog!
RRRRRGHHH!
GOOD EYE, WICKS.
AT YOUR SERVICE, GENT!
Philippine RAGNAROK ONLINE RPG
www.levelupgames.ph
Valkyrie Liberty
Chapter 14
WHAT'S THE PLAN, O FEARLESS LEADER?
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE FOCUSED ON THE LEADERSHIP ROLE, TAEYANG.
MY APOLOGIES, MARDEN. IT HAS BEEN A LONG DAY AND I AM FEELING THE EFFECTS.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, WE ALL ARE. THAT'S WHY YOUR BROTHER ADVISED ME THAT WE WOULDN'T SURVIVE AGAINST THANATOS.
HOWEVER, WE COULDN'T GO BACK DOWN INTO THE TOWER EITHER, BECAUSE THE MONSTERS WE KILLED BEFORE WILL SURELY HAVE RESPAWNED BY NOW.
AND THE ONLY OTHER ESCAPE ROUTE WAS TO GO THE OPPOSITE WAY, WHICH WAS UP. WELL PLAYED, MASTER GODSHAMMER, WELL PLAYED.
SO WE ARE OUT OF DANGER, FOR THE MEANTIME. BUT HOW DO WE LEAVE THIS DREADFUL TOWER?
HERE'S A LESSON FOR YOU...
Story by: Mark Navarro
Pencils and Inks by: Jhomar Soriano
Colors by: Aldin Viray
ALWAYS HAVE AN EXIT STRATEGY.
AND SO, WITH THE EVOLVED MINI PROPELLER AND FLYING ANGEL HEADGEAR...
SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS EXIT STRATEGY...
IT'S GOOD TO BE THE GUILD MASTER.
/swt
OUR HEROES DESCEND ALONG THE OUTSIDE OF THE THANATOS TOWER TO THE GROUND BELOW.
TO BE CONTINUED.

BY POL MEDINA JR.

PUGAD BABOY


NAPANSIN KONG KANINA KA PA RITO SA PARTY PERO HINDI KA KUMAKAIN...
KUMAIN NA KASI AKO NG PLAIN OATMEAL AT WHEAT CRACKERS KANINA.
NAKS! HEALTH NUT PALA 'TONG KATABI KO.
ANO BA'NG BALAK MO? UMABOT NG EDAD NUBENTA?
PARANG GANO'N NA NGA.
EWAN KO SA'YO, HA? PERO AKO? DI BALE NANG MAMATAY AKO NG MAAGA BASTA'T MARANASAN KO LANG ANG LAHAT NG MASASARAP NA BAGAY SA NAG-IISANG BUHAY KO NA 'TO.
POL 30SEP07
AYOKONG UMABOT NG NUBENTA ANYOS NA HABANG NAKARATAY AKO SA DEATH BED KO E PAGSISISIHAN KO NA HINDI AKO NAGPAKABUSOG SA LECHON, ALIMANGO AT ATAY NG PATO...
ABSENTEE FATHER KASI TAYONG MGA SUNDALO E. GUSTO KO LANG NA UMABOT SA EDAD NA PWEDE AKONG BUMAWI SA MGA APO KO'T MAKALARO KO SILA NG TUMBANG PRESO.
KRTSH!
O... BA'T DI KA NA KUMAKAIN?
PAG-ASAWAHIN MO NGA NG MAAGA 'YANG SI PALTIK...

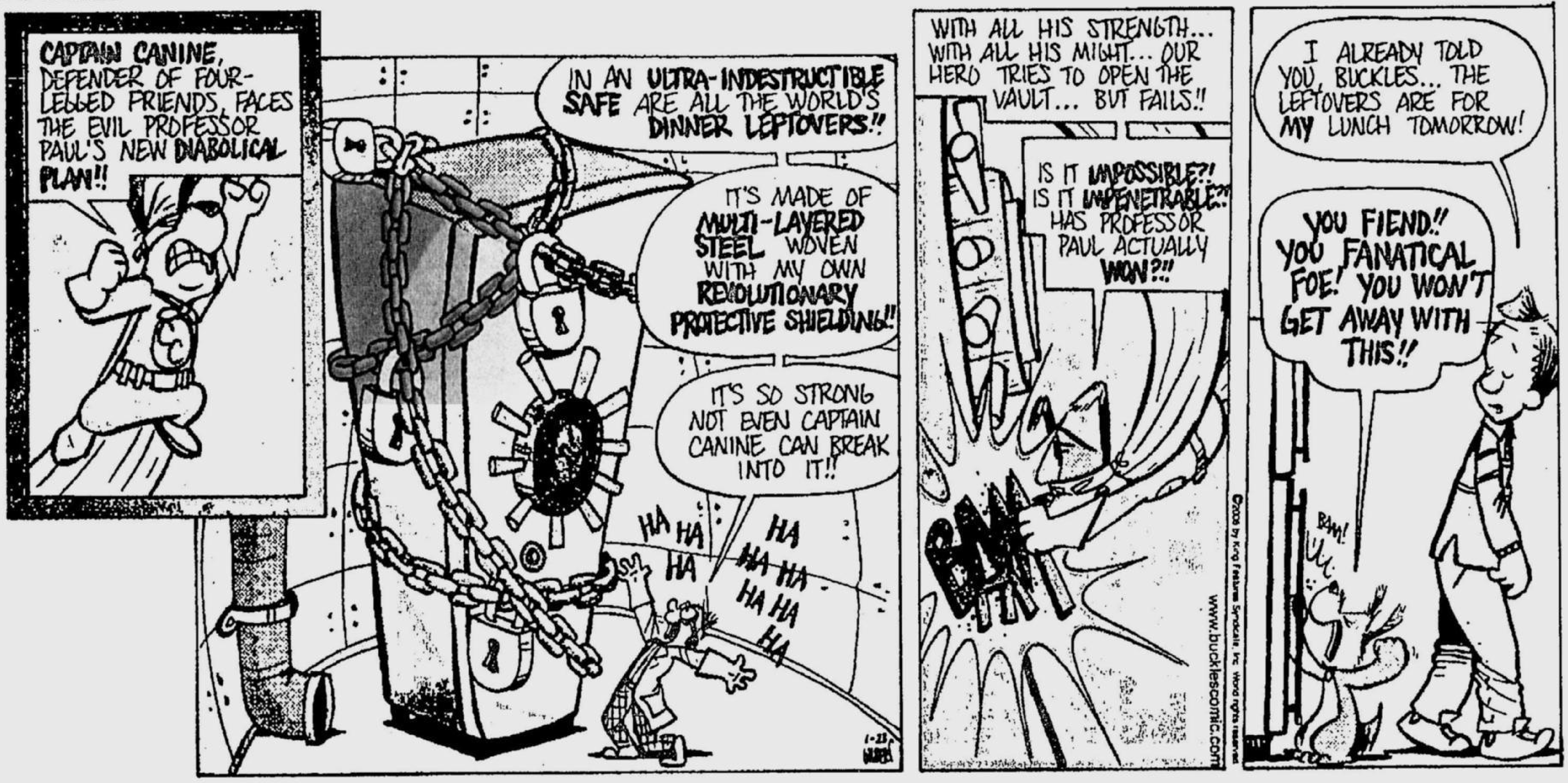
SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 30, 2007

INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

7

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


CAPTAIN CANINE, DEFENDER OF FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS, FACES THE EVIL PROFESSOR PAUL'S NEW DIABOLICAL PLAN!!
IN AN ULTRA-INDESTRUCTIBLE SAFE ARE ALL THE WORLD'S DINNER LEFTOVERS!!
IT'S MADE OF MULTI-LAYERED STEEL WOVEN WITH MY OWN REVOLUTIONARY PROTECTIVE SHIELDING!!
IT'S SO STRONG NOT EVEN CAPTAIN CANINE CAN BREAK INTO IT!!
HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA HA
1-23
WITH ALL HIS STRENGTH... WITH ALL HIS MIGHT... OUR HERO TRIES TO OPEN THE VAULT... BUT FAILS!!
IS IT IMPOSSIBLE?! IS IT IMPENETRABLE?!! HAS PROFESSOR PAUL ACTUALLY WON?!!
BAM!
I ALREADY TOLD YOU, BUCKLES... THE LEFTOVERS ARE FOR MY LUNCH TOMORROW!
YOU FIEND!! YOU FANATICAL FOE! YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!!
BAM!

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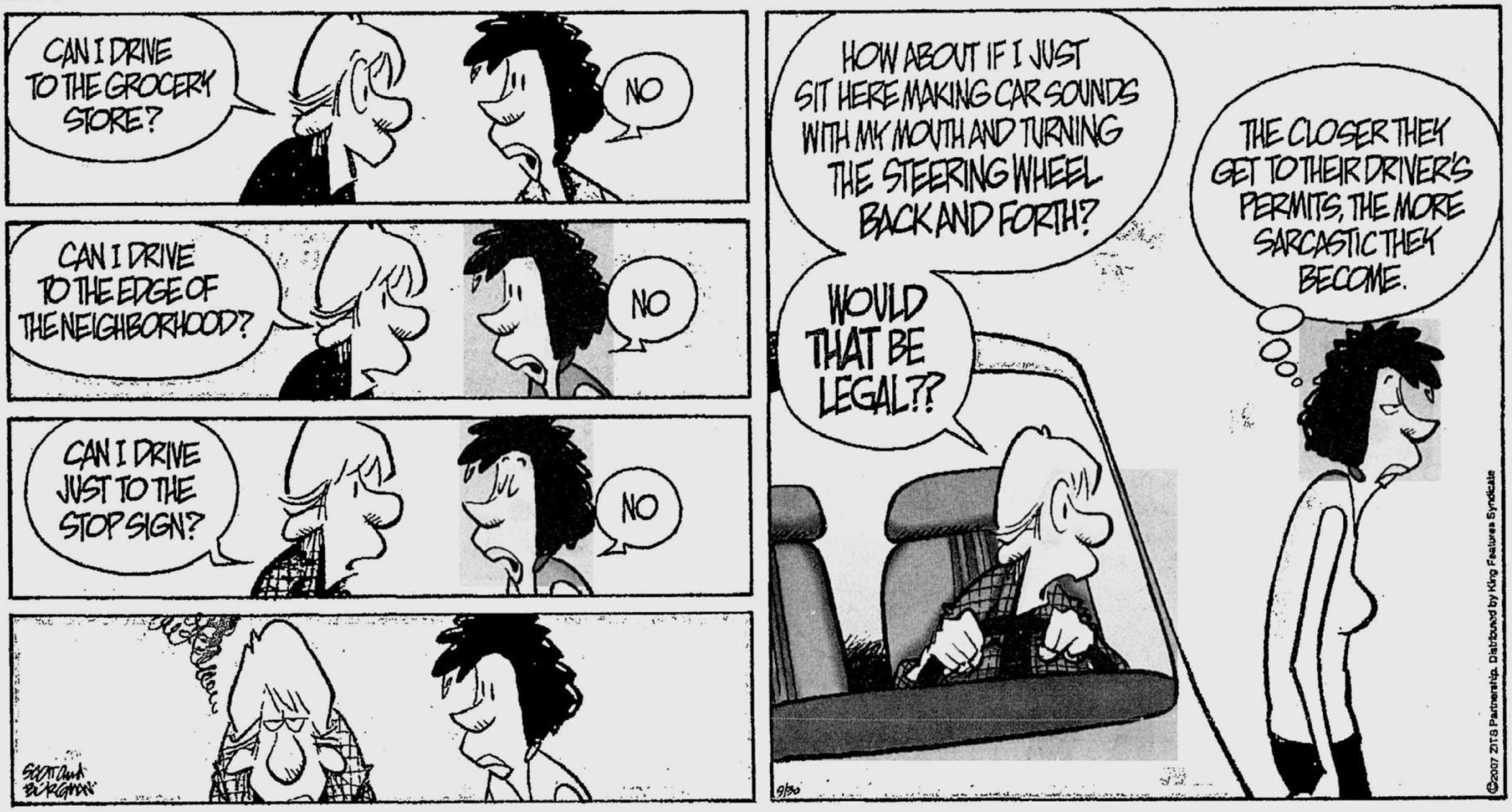
www.bucklescomic.com

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


CAN I DRIVE TO THE GROCERY STORE?
NO
CAN I DRIVE TO THE EDGE OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD?
NO
CAN I DRIVE JUST TO THE STOP SIGN?
NO
SCOTT and BORGMAN
HOW ABOUT IF I JUST SIT HERE MAKING CAR SOUNDS WITH MY MOUTH AND TURNING THE STEERING WHEEL BACK AND FORTH?
WOULD THAT BE LEGAL??
THE CLOSER THEY GET TO THEIR DRIVER'S PERMITS, THE MORE SARCASTIC THEY BECOME.
9/30

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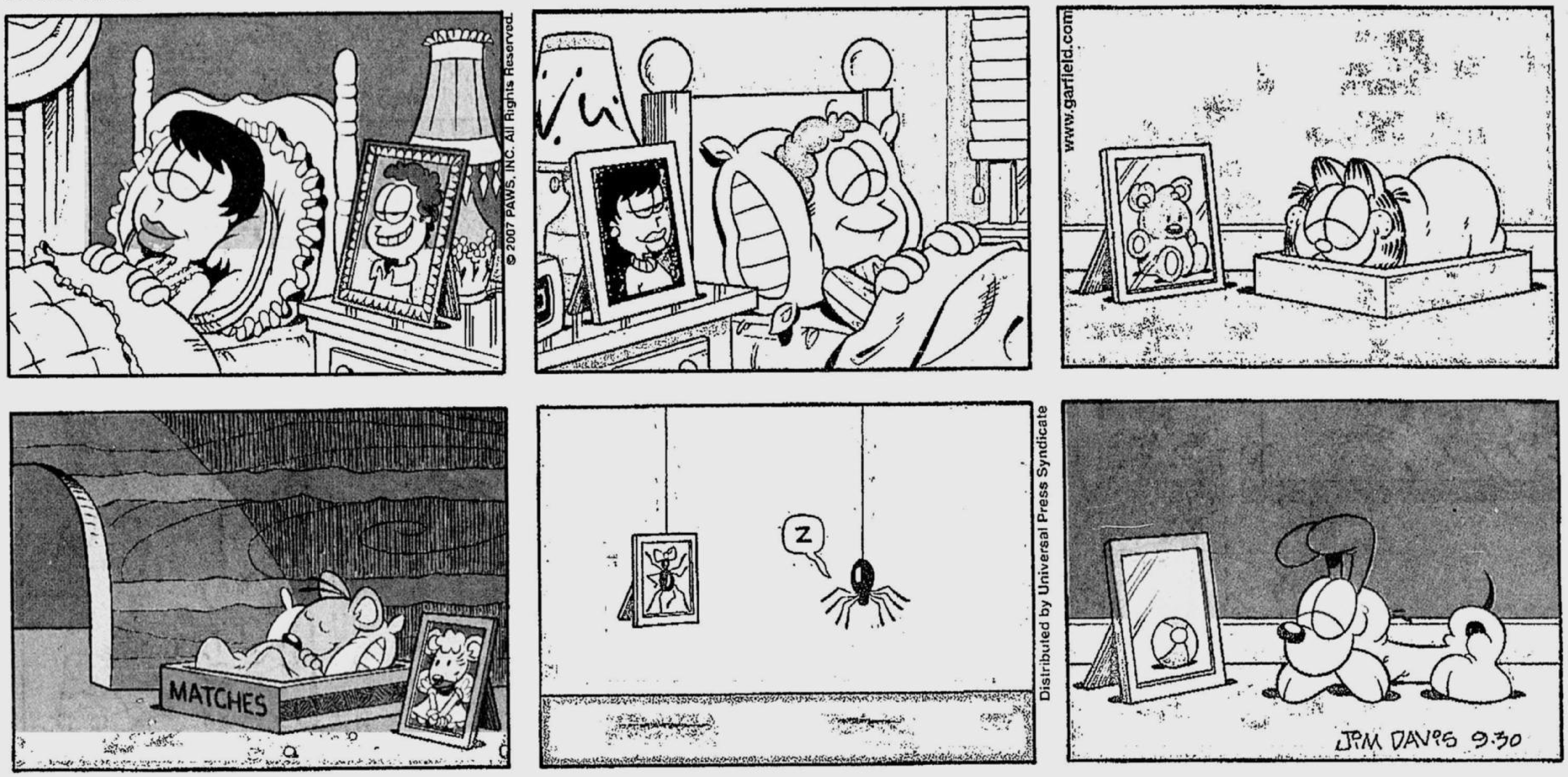
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS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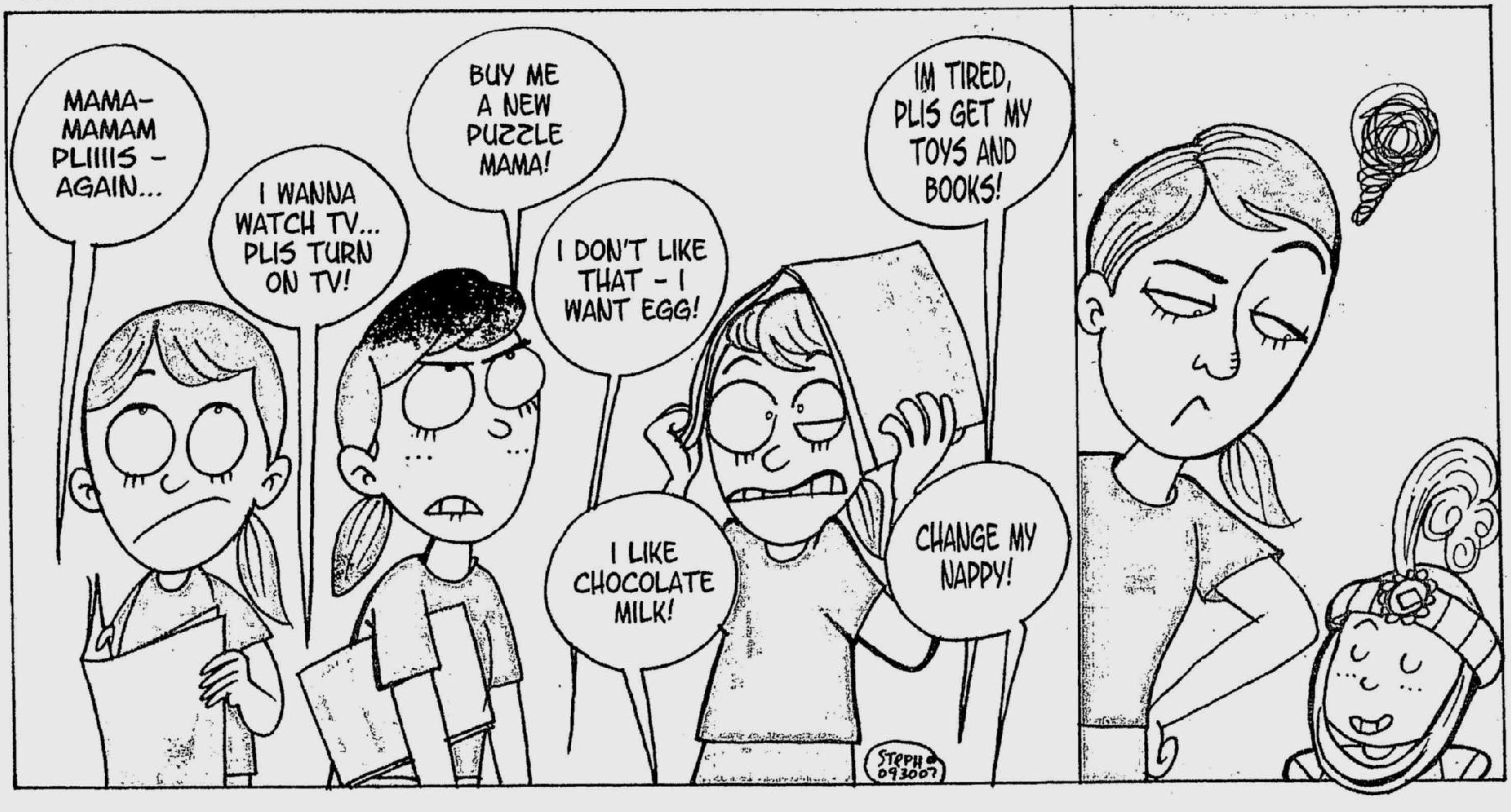
www.garfield.com
MATCHES
Z
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
JIM DAVIS 9-30

FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


MAMA-MAMAM PLIIIIS - AGAIN...
I WANNA WATCH TV... PLIS TURN ON TV!
BUY ME A NEW PUZZLE MAMA!
I DON'T LIKE THAT - I WANT EGG!
IM TIRED, PLIS GET MY TOYS AND BOOKS!
I LIKE CHOCOLATE MILK!
CHANGE MY NAPPY!
STEPH 093007

*sunday*INQUIRER*magazine*

September 30, 2007

FREE

ACEL GOES

Online and In Tune

+

eBay's auction heroes

online businesses

virtual battles

more!

By Tony Maghirang

Erik Arazas

The goal is virtual victory.

Let the Games Begin!

You're battling demons, hideous creatures and ruthless cyborgs in a bid to save the universe. Thank goodness you can log out anytime.

THE Department of Education may be pushing for the return of traditional games in schools, but kids today would more likely bat for interactive computer games instead. They may be living out virtual identities, but in the online world, they are part of communities with their own friends, foes and rules of engagement.

Compared to traditional or real world games, however, online gaming has its limitations, and it's not always about hurdling the technology bar. We're talking of actual costs just to get started.

For now, there are at least two ways to get into online gaming—and both carry a price tag. Even going gaming by your lonesome on your home computer can cost you. To download Internet games, which are huge files, your PC must have the minimum requirements for a gaming machine, specifically: Pentium IV 2Ghz chip, 1 Gb memory, 80 Gb hard disk, 128 Mb video card with effects accelerator and 17 in. flat screen monitor. The gaming package should set you back by at least P40,000 with generic PCs, or upwards of P60,000 with branded systems.

Next, to get connected to the Internet, the modem your elder brother grew up with in the late '90s just won't cut it anymore. Experts say even the much-advertised broadband may still be pretty slow compared to a DSL connection.

Broadband operates like a TV antenna and its online connection may vary depending on weather conditions, which can affect the speed of access and downloads. DSL is wired connection, and no external factors can affect online link, so access or downloads can proceed on promised speeds starting at 1.2 Mbps, or three times faster than broadband. A broadband subscription is about P1,000 per month while DSL starts at about P2,000 a month, exclusive of the rental fee of cable modem, and gets more expensive with higher access speeds.

Finally, you'll need to buy prepaid access cards of your favorite online game from Internet cafés or information kiosks in malls. You need the access information on the card to enter the gaming site. You then establish your prepaid account on the game website, and just like an ATM card, all other information such as the points and credits you have accumulated will be maintained in the account you have created.

If you don't have the necessary hardware and connection for your PC, just buy a game card and visit the nearest Internet café. Log on to the game site, establish your account and go gaming till your card balance runs out. You also have to provide for Internet use, which starts at P20 per hour in neighborhood shops.

A word of caution: Just like an ATM card, game access information and your online identity should be guarded against snoops and petty thieves. You can lose all the treasures and credits you have accumulated in your grand quest, which often takes months to put together. Just think of the amount of Internet usage fees and online time gone to waste.

Now, let the games begin.•

www.4gamer.net

RF Online: One of the many games on the Net

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I Deserve
Better

892-SKIN

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Text and photographs by Margaux Salcedo

The Best of Both Worlds

Where would I go if I wanted to get lost all day in the virtual world, without going hungry in the Real World?

FOUR hours as Bathsheba the Warrior Princess and my stomach was growling. I looked at Sargeras beside me and could not understand how he, Dodo and Silas could go on without food for six hours straight in front of their computers, playing World of Warcraft.

"Aren't you guys hungry?" No one heard me, the noob. "I'm really hungry," I pleaded to Sargeras. "Ask Oogie to cook some crispy bat wing," he suggested. "No. Bath doesn't have the ingredients and I'm Real World hungry."

He wouldn't leave the quest, typing in FTW and smiling goofily, totally absorbed in The World. Too hungry to wait for the quest to wrap up and eat with the boys, I typed in a message to the receptionist instead. "Order please of 1 ramen, 1 gyoza, 1 bottled water."

At Station 168 (www.station168.com), the staff understands the immediacy of their guests' needs. Their clientele includes businessmen, foreign and local alike, in urgent need of email services; forlorn lovers who spend hours chatting away with their sweethearts across the globe, and the biggest market of all–online gamers spending around six hours a day in battles and quests, who literally begin to look like zombies until they reach Level 60.

So, within a few minutes of typing in my order, I had my huge bowl of ramen, a large plate with ten pieces of dumplings and my bottle of water. Very efficient, very impressive.

Meltingly good: The Halibut Fillet at Old Swiss Inn

The soup was boiling hot and I offered some to Sargeras, who gave in to the smell of real food and had some. Mimicking me, he exclaimed with the same goofy smile, "It's an explosion of flavors!" It was an explosion, alright: the heat almost burns your tongue while the spiciness wakes up your senses and brings back energy you'd forgotten ever existed. But the maddening spice is relieved by the very refreshing kimchi and radish that are served with the bowl, a really impressive Korean touch at an Internet shop. Next I bit into the gyoza, which was also served very hot. It was obviously pre-packaged stuff, although tasty. It also came with a lovely sauce that has sesame seeds and chili bits in it that get caught in the meat when you dunk in your gyoza, making for a satisfying and fast filler.

Would I come here for the food? Still, no. There are other Korean restaurants around the block that serve far better Korean cheap eats. But would I choose 168 over other Internet cafés for the food? Definitely.

What I would do, however, better than choosing an Internet café with a stuffy cubicle where the keyboards have been touched by hands that have not been washed, is find a restaurant or café with wifi and work from there. I have tried several coffeehouses–Starbucks, Seattle's Best, Coffee Bean, you name it... but the pre-paid wi-fi is really highway robbery. P100 for an hour of wi-fi? Forget it.

Where would I go? Don't tell too many people but Old Swiss Inn on Makati Ave (by Manila Pen) is open 24 hours and they have free wi-fi. Here you won't be stuck with microwavable food but can have very good coffee, gourmet food, real cheese, or even their famous Toblerone fondue!

The food at Old Swiss Inn is fabulous. This restaurant has been in existence since 1946—first on Roxas Boulevard (gone), then in Paco (still open), Makati, and now Alabang—but clearly the Swiss commitment to excellence and quality remains and is the reason for its long life.

For appetizers, their raclette is still one of the best in the country, with the raclette flown in from Switzerland. It's a flatbed of cheese on two plates, with baby potatoes calmly lying atop them. For your main course, you may have prime rib if you feel like having a heavy meal, but for taste I would recommend the Halibut Fillet, which simply melts in your mouth and whose natural flavor is subtly but definitely enhanced by the wasabi-mayo sauce that comes with it.

But my best Swiss Inn memories come with fondue. In college, my buddies and I would hop to Swiss Inn after drinks at Peps or Cirkulo and just drown in their chocolate fondue, which I now know makes use of Toblerone chocolates. Today, I prefer the cheese fondues. The Waatlander Fondue uses Gruyere, my latest favorite cheese, and adds oomph with a shot of kirsch, a colorless brandy.

Now this is a place where I can get lost online the whole day. It really has the best of both worlds! •

Station 168
2nd Floor ChinaBank Bldg.
Makati Ave. Makati City, 1209

Old Swiss Inn. G/F Somerset Olympia, Makati Ave. (beside Peninsula).
818-0098, 818-8251. Open 24/7. Major credit cards accepted.
www.oldswissinn.com.

By Ruel S. De Vera

Auction Heroes

It's been described as the world's marketplace, but it often involves meet-ups, couriers, wire transfers, service charges and shipping costs. With all that bother, why are more Filipinos getting hooked on eBay?

Toy biz: Jesus Lim, Jr. and Malvin John Lim of Greattoys

Erik Arazas

AT FIRST glance, Czarina Denise D. Flores looks like your typical college student—winsome and smart. But on eBay Philippines (www.ebay.ph), the Assumption College junior (eBay ID: Czari) becomes a seller of books and other items with a perfect feedback of 100 percent. That means everyone that Flores has sold something to emerged satisfied from the transaction.

Yet it was only in July last year that Flores discovered eBay. "I was only a buyer at first," she says. "I found it fun to browse items. And so I signed up for my account and bought stuff." The items ranged from skin products to books. Then Flores looked around her house. "After that, I decided to sell some stuff, too." Flores now sells whenever she can. She's sold everything from an electric guitar to Gabriel Garcia-Marquez books for five pesos. "It's an e-book," Flores explains. "Some sell e-books for higher prices, but I prefer to sell them for five bucks; the cheaper, the better."

All this is made possible by the eBay platform. Essentially, a seller opens an account, then posts listings of items up for sale—sometimes with photos—and then holds an auction (usually for seven days, and the best bid wins), or opts for Buy It Now, which is exactly what it sounds like. Here is where everything becomes serious: the buyer must first pay for the item and its shipping costs before the seller sends it. After the transaction, both buyer and seller are allowed to leave feedback on each other as a tip for others who might want to deal with them in the future.

That is why Flores' perfect feedback is one of her biggest asset as an eBay seller. Keeping track of such transactions is also eBay's strongest suit, aside from it being "convenient for both buyer and seller," says Flores. For one, this seller makes sure she gets the payment first, either through wire transfer, gcash or autoload. She then sends the items through courier simply by texting the courier and then leaving the package for pickup. "But usually, to be fair, everything's done at the same time. While the buyer sends the money, I prepare the package and send it," Flores says. "One time, I had a buyer interested in a pair of shoes, but she wasn't sure it would fit her. So, I sent the shoes to her first. It fit. And then she paid for it through wire transfer. "

There is a unique aspect to eBay Philippines in that meet-ups (where the seller and the buyer actually meet in person to exchange payment and goods) is the preferred option. "It's cheaper," explains Flores. The usual eBay deal often involves shipping and service charges for payments made through wire transfer. At the original eBay site, credit cards were the dominant currency, thanks to eBay-owned Paypal, says Flores. In eBay Philippines, however, other means of payment are available, including through cellphones. "Easier to communicate that way," she says. "E-mail takes time and it's also difficult to check my e-mail all the time when I get busy with school work."

It isn't all fun, though. Flores hates dealing with what she calls "joy bidders," people who bid just for kicks and have no plans to actually pay. Online auctions are nothing new to tech-savvy Pinoys. Bidshot and Auction.ph have their own devotees, as well as the advantage of having launched much earlier. But eBay Philippines, launched in November, 2004 from California, was no lightweight. It was the inevitable local offspring of eBay (www.ebay.com), the world's marketplace, with over 125 million customers worldwide. Founded in 1995 by Pierre Omidyar, eBay became a lynchpin of the Internet revolution by introducing an entirely new kind of marketplace, with sellers and buyers from all over the world turning "eBay" into a buzzword.

"The launch of eBay Philippines brings our successful online marketplace to a growing Internet market in Asia," said eBay International senior vice president Bill Cobb in a statement about the launch. "eBay's global community already includes many thousands of members in the Philippines, and we are happy to provide them with their own dedicated website."

The mothership, eBay.com or just plain eBay, is home to Filipino sellers as well, sellers who ship internationally. Such is the case of Greattoysonline.com (eBay ID: greattoys-greattoys). Founded in 2003, Greattoys is a thriving concern that sells

(continued on page 12)

By Michael L. Tan

Net Gains—and Losses

For as low as P20 an hour, Filipinos can click into a world where they can meet friends from abroad, fight virtual wars, find a date, rip off the system or, in some cases, earn cellphone load by catering to voyeurs.

www.flickr.com

THEY'RE cramped. I visited one hole-in-the-wall Internet shop with four computer stations fitted into 15 square meters of space, but for only P20 an hour, they open a new world to the Filipino *masa*.

What do people do in these low-cost Internet cafés? Not research, I found out. These places are popular because they're portals for Filipino congeniality, a way to keep in touch with and meet new people. The cafes use 21st century technology to fulfill some rather old-fashioned needs.

Walk through the humblest Internet café and you enter a global network that allows someone in Davao to meet someone farther off—maybe not Darfur yet, but Dublin and Dhaka are very real possibilities. And Net users can do this in the most unexpected ways, for example, gaming. Nothing too sophisticated like Second Life here; much of it are the more competitive war games that allow kids in Manila to pit their skills with others elsewhere in the world.

The games are for a younger male crowd and they eventually move on to other sites for socializing. The more innocent sites are those like Friendster, the site name recently voted one of the *"Salita ng Taon"* (word of the year). Friendster continues the tradition of pen-pals and those midnight phone calls that went, "*Hilu, puede pong mag-ponepal?*" For more ancient Filipinos, let me explain that Friendster is similar to the old "autograph book." The more people you had signing your autograph book, the higher your status. Same thing with Friendster, except that you post your picture together with a few hundred friends from all over the world. In the context of Filipino congeniality, it's a way of saying: "Hey, I'm this popular." There's the gender factor too: guys usually boast about all the girls in their site, hinting of some kind of romantic link.

Internet cafés also allow people to visit dating sites, where information posted is much more detailed, to include hobbies, political views, even sexual preferences. The dating sites help find one a match. People go by the photographs posted but are rightly suspicious, so others insist on seeing a real face via a web camera (which even the cheap cafés have). These sites have opened new possibilities for people who would normally find it difficult to walk into a bar or disco, much less make friends in such establishments. People do end up with virtual dating, and if they feel good about each other, can go for a face-to-face encounter or what is called "eyeballing."

There are risks involved in Net socializing, though. The anonymity of the Net breeds predators who prey on the young and the gullible. I worry too about how the Internet might be projecting an "ugly Filipino" image. One website has warned Filipinos to be more courteous in chatting. Another website has banned Filipinos from posting because of so many cases of young Pinoys telling sob stories to older gay men and asking them to send money. And, it seems Filipinos have also been acquiring some degree of notoriety in the area of Internet porn, including some homespun amateur efforts—young girls offering voyeurs a "peek" of themselves through a web cam, for a small fee. How small? A cellphone load.

The cafes are evolving. I predict they'll eventually become phone stations as well, offering low-income Filipinos access to Skype and other similar low-cost Internet phone call services. This will be a real boon given our diaspora.

Paradoxically, while Internet cafés have expanded opportunities for socializing, they've also encouraged people to create their own insulated worlds. Customers can walk in and for P60, choose 18 songs to burn on a CD or copy directly into their MP3 player. You'd be surprised too at the number of songs these Internet cafés have on stock, and which the café staff can identify if you can just hum a decent version of the tune. On your next ride on the LRT or MRT, catch all those blissful faces among the commuters, as they listen to their MP3 players packed with songs downloaded from computer in Net cafes.

Internet cafés do reflect where the country is today. In many ways, they allow Filipinos to subvert the system, with ripped-off songs for example. On the other hand, the cafés sometimes reflect our despair. There are Filipinos who go to Net cafés hoping to meet someone from "abroad," who will take them away from wherever they are now.

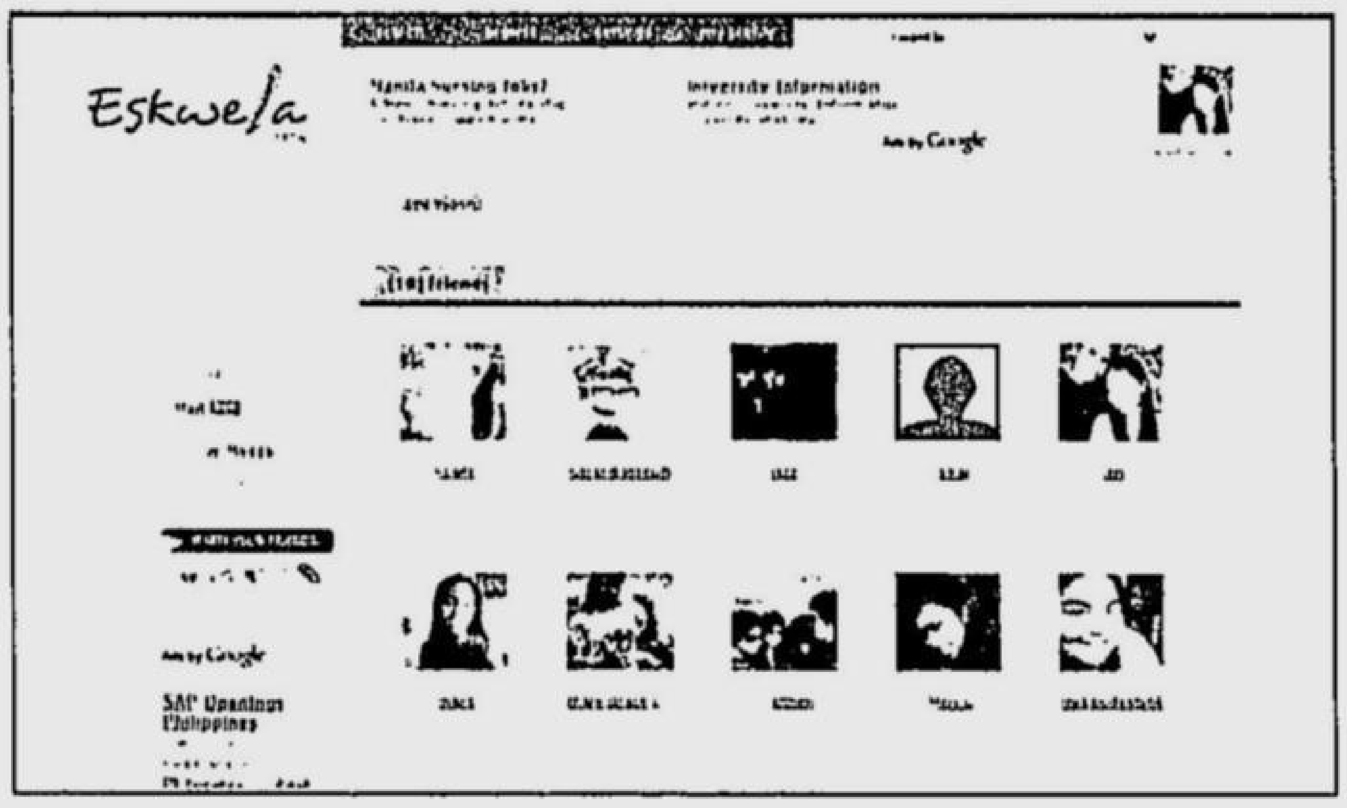
Who knows though? Internet cafés still have an old-fashioned function as a watering-hole, and yes, there have been stories of people who go to a café hoping to meet someone "abroad" but who end up falling in love with the person at the next computer. Someone should do a TV series, quick, and call it "*Buhay Internet* (The Internet Life)." •

FEATURE

By Joey Alarilla

Who are the people in your online neighborhood?

In this Age of the Net, your neighbors are no longer just the people next door. They can be Netizens from halfway across the globe who share the same interests as you.



Net effects: Pinoyexpats and Eskwela.com

MELISSA Petri, who crunches numbers for a big Japanese company in Frankfurt, Germany, knows quite well how it feels to be homesick.

"When I first moved here, I remember longing for the familiar and looking for people who could make me feel like I belong," she recounts. "And when I couldn't find them locally, I sought and found solace in the World Wide Web. Not only did the Internet make it easier to keep in touch with the people I've left behind, it also gave me the company I sought and needed. I found people who could empathize and sympathize with me, fellow homesick Filipino expatriates."

The words are from the first editorial of PINOYexpats (www.pinoyexpats.org), an e-zine for Filipino expatriates, of which Petri is founder and editor.

PINOYexpats attests to the impact of the Internet revolution on the daily lives of a growing number of Filipinos. In this Age of the Internet, your neighbors are no longer necessarily the people who physically live near you. They could well be Internet users from halfway across the globe who share the same interests as you.

In the case of Jim Ayson, one of the pioneers of the Internet in the Philippines, his love for music led him to found the multi-awarded PhilMusic.com (www.philmusic.com), which began as a mailing list on iPhil in 1996 before becoming a music website in February 2007.

"When PhilMusic started in the early days of the Internet in the Philippines, I was active in the Usenet group soc.culture.filipino," recalls Ayson. "I noticed that a lot of Fil-Ams had an archaic and unhip view of Philippine popular music. They tended to discuss only acts they knew when they were still in the country, and unfortunately this was limited to Basil Valdez, APO and Kuh Ledesma. I thought it would be a good eye-opener to discuss rock and jazz and other hipper genres rather than just saccharine OPM pop."

Adds Ayson: "The website was originally intended to promote the Philippine music scene on the Internet. In recent years the emphasis has been on providing a resource for Philippine musicians to discuss gear, gigs, recordings and other concerns specific to musicians."

Meanwhile, Pinoy Exchange (www.pinoyexchange.com) was born because of the Filipinos' love for basketball. Mike Palacios, general manager of PinoyExchange and managing director of its mother company Havoc Digital, shares his story: "PinoyExchange was started in July 1999 by brothers Nix and Mike Nolledo, along with friends Jude Turcuato and myself. We originally promoted the site via the UAAP with the tagline 'After the game, speak your mind on PinoyExchange!' The original audience consisted of college basketball fans—mostly alumni. We've since expanded to over 35 discussion categories—from love to sports to technology."

The online community has 215,000 members, mostly in the 18-28 age group, with 25 percent of the users living outside the Philippines, Palacios shares. He adds that PinoyExchange is also leveraging its success as an online community to venture into e-commerce through a partnership between Havoc Digital and MyAyala.com.

Over the past few years, social networking has become popular particularly among younger people who rely on sites such as Friendster, MySpace and Facebook to keep in touch with family and friends.
It was the desire to address this need with a homegrown site that led co-founder Terence Pua to launch Eskwela.com (www.eskwela.com) in October 2006. Eskwela.com now has close to 100,000 members.

Asked what makes Eskwela.com different from other social networking sites, Pua replies, "Our competitive advantage is our database. This is manually entered and vetted through to make sure everything is correct. We don't have fake profiles or dual profiles (like in other social networking sites). Thus, Eskwela is very clean."

With people spending so much time online, aren't they in danger of becoming anti-social, one might ask. On the contrary, online communities not only allow you to make new friends, they can actually also enhance your real-life relationships.

"I actually met one of my closest guy friends online," says LJ Regalado, Eswela.com's founding engineer who developed the site. "Online communities are already part of the Filipino lifestyle. These days, aside from opening their e-mail account, Netizens also check their online community account. Funny, but some people even check it first before their

(continued on page 15)

Regulating the Wild Wild Web

By Tony M. Maghirang

Is it possible to police a medium that changes form and content by the minute? Can the law- -and the notoriously slow process of legislation- -ever catch up with the viruses, hackers and fraudsters that infest online technology?

THE Internet used to be an excitingly untamed place. Like the pre-Martial Law Plaza Miranda in the real world, it was open, crowded, noisy and wild. Then vandals started defacing the web sites, attracting the attention of authorities who have since tried to set restrictions on what the rest of us could see or find on the Net.

On top of that, computer viruses brought home the fact that real threats lurk even in the virtual world. Private citizens feared the prospect of deadly infection turning to junk their investments in hardware and software. It was enough to support an industry of anti-virus software developers.

Then came a viral variant ingeniously named "I Love You," put together purportedly by a Filipino programmer, which infected e-mail systems worldwide and caused damages of up to $10 billion in productivity losses in the post-industrial West. Before the 21st century could begin in earnest, the millennium bug threatened to pull the plug on human civilization as we know it, though nothing terrible actually came to pass.

To protect against technology-driven hazards like viruses, the best antidote has been technology-based measures. Internet surfers install anti-virus software to detect and disarm viral intrusions from within and without, including spam or unsolicited e-mail. Web developers and Internet service providers put up firewalls that limit unauthorized entry into their domain. This prescription pits technology against itself, the only difference being whether the application is for offense or defense.

But the adverse impact of the "I Love You" virus pushed the panic button, so to speak. When the resulting investigation showed the absence of a legal framework to prosecute the offender, much less gather evidence against him, Filipino lawmakers were compelled to fast-track the passage of the e-Commerce Act. Before the Act was enacted, no specific law or regulation could address and resolve issues, such as hacking, arising from a new platform called the Internet. Legislation, it was presumed, would provide some teeth to the defensive posture of technological antidote.

These days, the e-Commerce Law is often invoked in the never-ending contention on whether music and movies downloaded from the Internet are illegal or not, and who should impose order in the wake of unrestricted piracy on the wild Web frontier.

Log-in the law. Cristobal (right): "Technology develops faster than the law."

Atty. Adrian Cristobal Jr., director general of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IP Philippines), an attached agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, says that a major breakthrough with the e-Commerce Law is its recognition that digital documents are valid documents for business and legal transactions.

He elaborates, "The e-Commerce Law introduced the principle that an electronic document is the functional equivalent of the written document. The Act upheld the validity of electronic messages, signatures and documents to accomplish two objectives—to facilitate domestic and international dealings through the use of electronic or optical media, and to promote the use of electronic transaction in government and the general public."

Acts in violation of the good intents of the e-Commerce Law are punishable by fines and imprisonment. Offenses covered by the law are hacking or cracking, which refers to unauthorized entry into computer systems, including the introduction of harmful viruses, and piracy or the unauthorized copying, reproduction and dissemination of copyrighted materials in a manner that infringes on intellectual property rights. The offender faces a minimum fine of P100,000 and mandatory imprisonment of up to three years.

The e-Commerce Act protects intellectual property (IP) rights in the sense that the Act provides penalties for violations of various IP rights. IP Philippines is seeking to toughen existing laws even further by adding a wider scope to their coverage.

Argues Cristobal: "Technology develops faster than the law, hence the need to amend and strengthen the law to address new challenges that new technologies pose. Two bills have been filed in Congress seeking to incorporate provisions from the Internet Treaties promulgated by the World Intellectual Property Organization and ratified by our own Congress in March 2002. These proposed amendments will enhance the local IP Code to meet technology-driven challenges."

Legal measures are mounting but the IP Philippines' Director says the Supreme Court of the Philippines has not yet rendered any decision on violations over the Internet or any pending case, for that matter, that would have tested the validity of the e-Commerce Act as the defining legislation of online law and order in the country.

The more controversial offenses reportedly being committed on the Net, among them cybercrimes like child pornography and wholesale bank fraud, are not expressly included in the e-Commerce Act. Cristobal thinks that these crimes can be redressed by specific provisions in the existing penal code, the Consumer Act, the child rights law and, in the case of gross financial misdeeds, regulations by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Department of Finance.

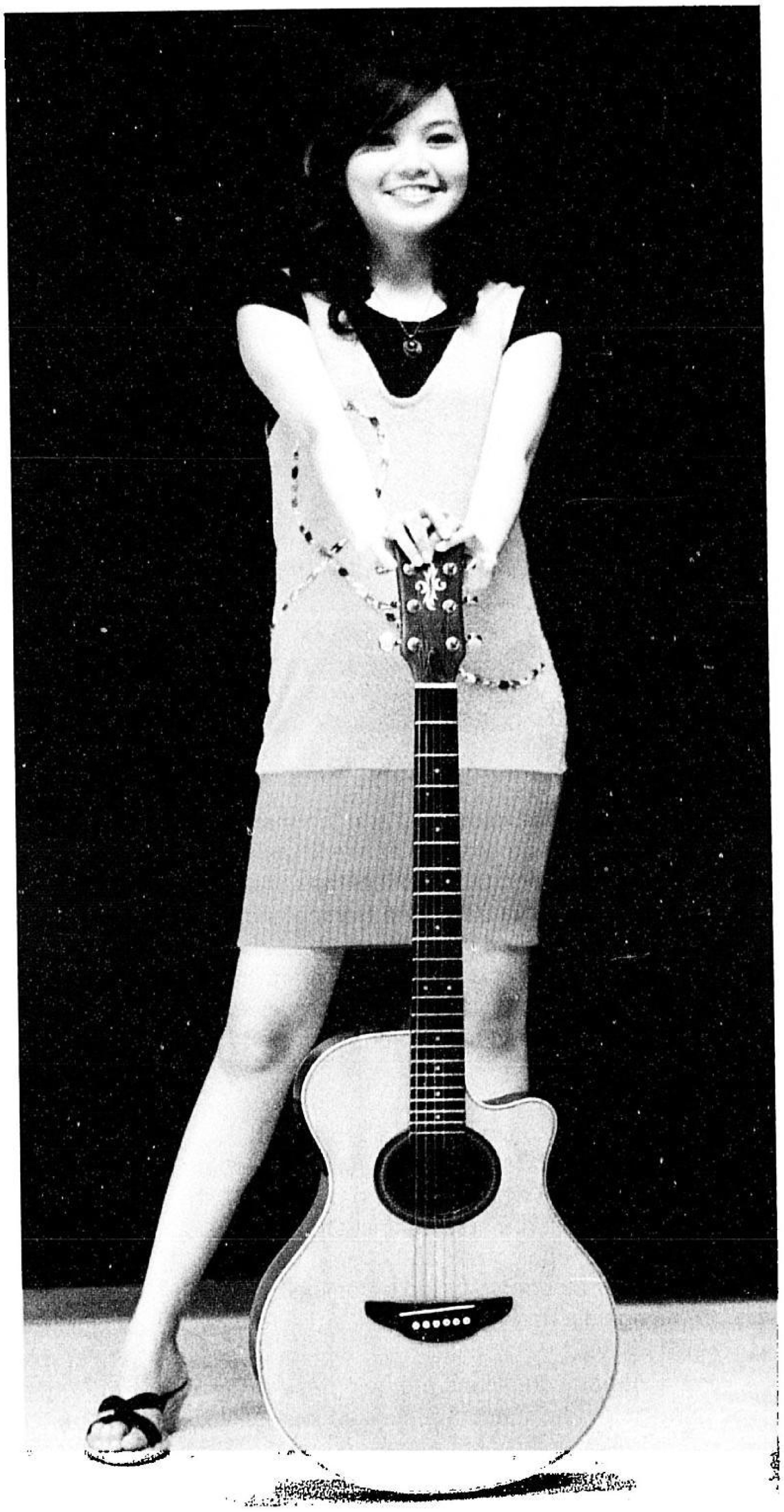
Cristobal accepts that the applicable laws today carry harsher punishments and, therefore, provide stronger deterrence against criminal acts. Still, the e-Commerce Act adds significant weight to the burden of proven offenders if and when they are haled to court.

Regulating a medium that changes form and content by the minute can definitely be a frustrating venture. By the looks of it, regulators are simply playing catch up even as the push of new technology renders outdated their own will to stamp order on a wild and shifty Web.•

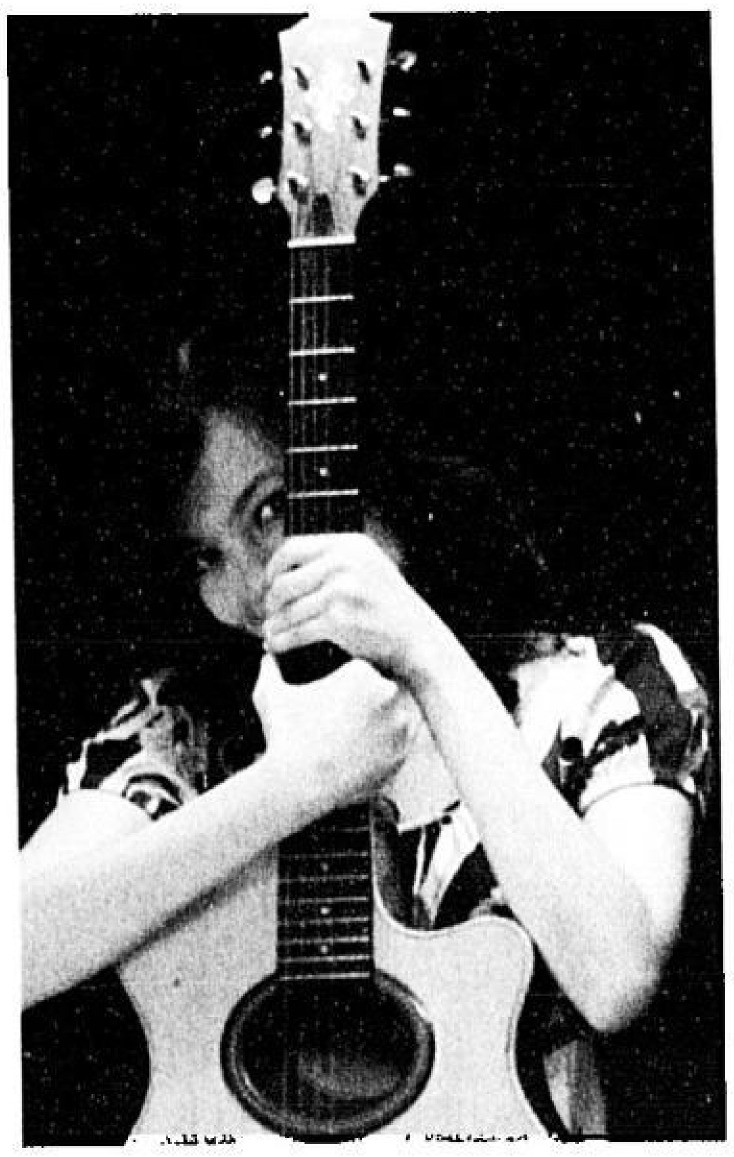
Acel goes Online and In Tune

As the first local artist to release an album without a CD, Acel is testing the waters in a brave new virtual world, where tunes can be downloaded at P12 a song

By Eric S. Caruncho
Photographs by: Jim Guiao Punzalan



Stepping up with the download: Acel smiles at the future



PROPHETS of doom notwithstanding, these are boom times for music.
The compact disc might be dead, and the music business as we know it dying, but make no mistake, there's more music being made—and listened to—than ever before.

It's just that the local industry hasn't figured out yet how to make money off file sharing, the dominant form of music distribution. While Apple quickly cornered the market with iTunes, cutting heavily into the CD retailing business, no comparable local model has yet emerged.

But there can be little doubt that the future of local music will be digital. And it won't wait for the Philippines to be online.

Already, savvy entrepreneurs armed only with a PC and a dream have set up music "downloading" stations where new owners of the cheap MP3 players now flooding the market, as well as the new MP3-capable cellphones, can buy tunes even without owning an Internet connection. These are the same kiosks where you can get screensavers and ringtones for your phones, and sometimes mix CDs. Many of them serve squid balls too.

So people on the street have got it all figured out, even if the music biz hasn't.

Despite the uncertainty of getting their royalty payments—so what else is new?—artists seem ready to take the plunge. After all, it's a brave new world out there, where the ringtone charts matter more than the music retailers' Top Ten, and landing a soap opera soundtrack deal is better than getting your video on MTV.

Just ask Acel.

If the name doesn't immediately ring a bell, the voice should. It's the same voice TV audiences heard singing the theme of "Maria Flor de Luna." Those with longer recall might also dimly remember a little ditty called "*Torete*" by an outfit called Moonstar 88 that was a radio staple a while back. And if that still doesn't do it, not to worry: By October televiewers will be getting a daily dose of Acel since she'll be singing the main theme of ABS-CBN's new Koreanovela "Spring Waltz."

Acel also has the distinction of being the first local artist to release an album without a CD. That's right, the album "Silver Lining" will be available only online, at least for the moment. A CD release down the road remains a possibility, but for now it's available by download only.

"Almost all new releases are available as digital downloads, but mine is the first album to be released without an actual CD," says the slender, waifish and hard-to-believe-she's-32 Acel, Maria Cecilia Bisa van Ommen in real life.

Two songs from the album, "*Pakiusap*" and "Laugh and Cry" are already enjoying airplay and video exposure. If these songs tickle the listener's fancy, they'll have to go online, either to www.acelbisa.com, Acel's fansite, or to

(continued on page 15)

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co

Catching the Blog

Once dismissed as a confessional journal or a shameless attempt at self-promotion, blogs have now become respectable websites on the Net, with bloggers perceived to be highly literate and upwardly mobile individuals who can influence the multitude.

Angelo Racoma

Butch Dado

Mrs. Market Man

Web wonders: (clockwise from above, left) the Racomas, Lauren Dado with her mom Noemi, and the Market Man

IN this digital age, people don't just exchange mobile phone numbers and e-mail addresses. They've also begun swapping web and blog addresses.

Having a blog is a badge of honor among serious Internet users. It's like saying: "I have an online home, you have yours. You visit me and I'll visit you."

As they read and comment on each other's posts, bloggers form friendships and build an online society like no other. This is known as the blogosphere, where members converse, share ideas, join forces for some common cause, arrange to meet face-to-face, and, yes, differ and bicker.

Bloggers are arguably the crème de la crème of Internet users. Their demography reveals that they are young (15-35), highly literate, and upwardly mobile. They are perceived as an influential group that can persuade people, mold public opinion and even sell products.

An indication of how influential bloggers have become is the fact that big business has started paying attention to them. Globe Telecom began the trend of gathering bloggers in product launches and other events. SM Hypermarket elevated it a notch higher with blogger parties, a blogging contest, and blogsites of its own. Product development and the marketing staff of food companies are known to monitor food blogs to feel the consumers' pulse. Restaurants like Portico and Max's Fried Chicken invite bloggers to sample their menu and ambiance. Meanwhile, the number of businesses placing advertising spots on high-traffic blogs is growing as well.

Blogging power was palpably demonstrated recently when a newspaper columnist who earned the public ire with her elitist remarks against OFWs, buckled down, apologized and offered to resign after bloggers started an online campaign against her.

Already questions are being asked of blogs as a new medium of "citizen journalism." Will they threaten paper-and-ink newspapers and magazines? Will they edge out the more traditional websites? How much more impact can they make on doing business?

Blogging wasn't too respectable in the late 1990s, when the first blogs appeared. Back then, a blog was little more than an online diary or journal of events. It was at first dismissed as an easy, sleazy way of publicly revealing or promoting oneself.

Today, there are an estimated 200,000 Pinoy bloggers—from about 40,000 a year ago—and hundreds of different kinds of blogs. Many are still very personal and journal-like. Some are philosophical, political, family-oriented. There are blogs for every hobby or interest imaginable: sports, music, entertainment, food, home, arts and crafts, fashion and style, health and fitness. There are individual and group blogs or networks as well as business, professional, technology and advocacy blogs.

Many bloggers are frustrated writers who find instant gratification in blogging. "I am oh-so-familiar with rejection slips," admits one newbie blogger. "Now I have become an author, editor and publisher."

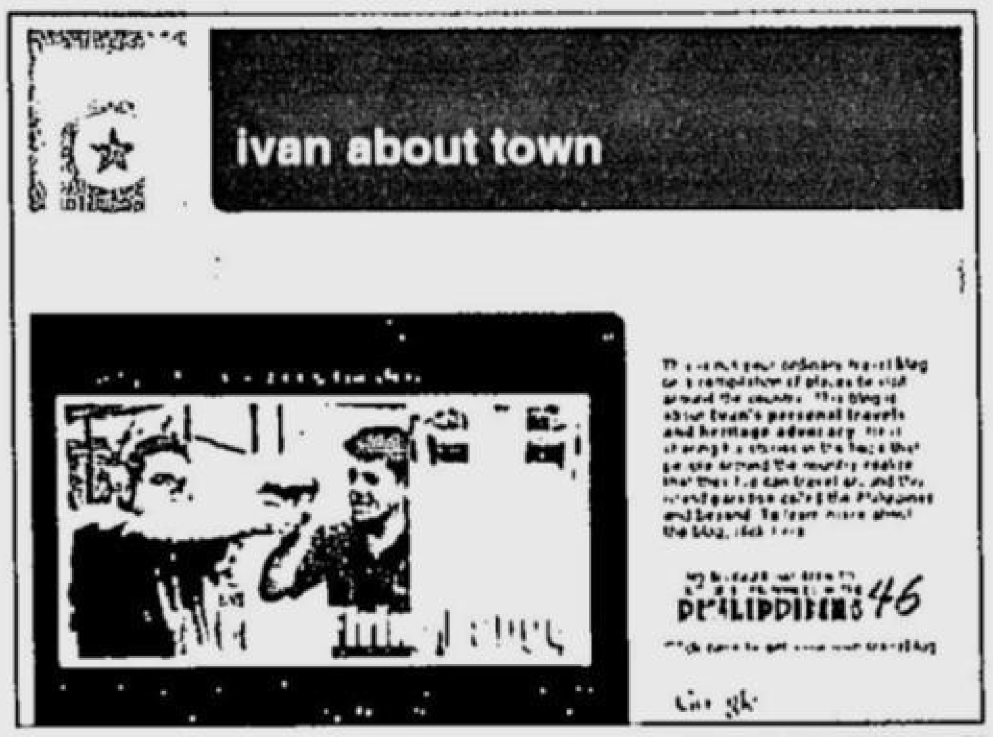
There are, of course, blogs and blogs—and those that have made it. "Making it" means different things to different bloggers, of course. It could mean making big bucks out of blogging, winning a prestigious award, or simply being read by thousands of loyal followers.

Any "A List" of local blogsites will include yugatech.com by Abe "Yuga" Olandres, widely regarded as a pioneer and master among Pinoy bloggers. Blogging since 2000, he owns many other sites and portals that earn income for him. Bloggers and readers log on to his pinoytopblogs.com for an objective ranking of the best blogsites by popularity and category.

Another blogging pioneer is J. Angelo Racoma, who talks about making money from blogging at The Jspot

(continued on page 11)

The Blogosphere Cometh



Best travel blog

Here are other winners of the first-ever Philippine Blog Awards in various categories:

Personal: misteryosa.com (views and reviews of a Filipina)
Home and living: Wifely Steps at toni.marikit.com
Socio-political: philippinecommentary.blogspot.com
News and media: Inside PCIJ at pcij.org.blog
Fashion and lifestyle: Bryanboy: Le Superstar Fabuleux at bryanboy.typepad.com
Technology: Leon Kilat: The Cybercafe Experiments at max.limpag.com
Business/Entrepreneurship: Reflections of a BizDrivenLife at ngkhai.net/bizdrivenlife
Entertainment: retzwerx.com (Filipino entertainment at its best)
Sports and recreation: whoridesavespa.com (all about motorcycling with a Vespa)
Travel: Ivan About Town at ivanhenares.com (personal travelogues in 46 of 81 Phlippine provinces).

Janette Toral, e-commerce guru, who blogs at digitalfilipino.com launched her own "Top Ten Emerging Influential Bloggers" awards last June, which recognized new bloggers based on endorsement by peers.

But long before A-listers began to blog, there was Lauren Dado, the first known Pinoy blogger, who published an untitled journal in 1996, when ready-made blogging platforms and templates were unheard of. She created her site from scratch, at 10, with self-taught html language. Now 21 and an IT professional, Lauren still blogs at laurganism.com.•

The author blogs as annamanila at ode2old.blogspot.com.

Catching the Blog (from page 10)

(racoma.com.ph). He knows whereof he speaks: he left a comfortable 8 to 5 job to blog fulltime. He now works from home as editor-in-chief of an international blogging network, which enables him to hire his *kababayans* as bloggers, researchers, and web designers. The Racomas are a blogging family – from the matriarch, Dine, 49, down to the baby, Alan, Jr., 11.

Connie Veneracion, who quit lawyering for mothering, founded pinoymomsnetwork.com this February and parlayed it months later into a widely-read electronic magazine run by about a hundred members who exchange mommy stories. Connie, who began blogging in 2003, is also the author of two food blogs, pinoycook.com and pinoyfoodtalk.net.

Noemi Lardizabal-Dado, may be a come-lately, but her months-old aboutmyrecovery.com won last year in the first-ever blogging category of the Philippine Web Awards, which used to recognize only websites. She writes about bouncing back from the loss of her young son and translating grief into positive energy through various advocacies, including support for the bereaved.

Olandres, Racoma and Dado are all professional bloggers who have succeeded in monetizing their blogs on the basis of readership volume. Olandres, however, warns that "blogging is no get-rich-quick scheme" and that "blogging is for everyone but earning from blogs is for a few."

The launching of the Philippine Blog Awards (PBA) this year was an unmistakable signal that blogging has finally come into its own. According to Jayvee Fernandez, award co-organizer and another master blogger (abuggedlife.com), blogs are judged by a panel, representing both mainstream and the new blogging media, on the basis of the following criteria: quality of content, consistency in sticking to niche topics, frequency of blogging, popularity, and design.

The PBA's plum "bloggers' choice award" was won by Market Man of marketmanila.com authored by a semi-retired management consultant who writes about "overspending in markets and food shops," "chopping vegetables for therapy," and cooking up a storm in his kitchen with a six-burner Viking stove, three refrigerators, and 200 cookbooks.•

Figure It Out

408 – Number of Internet service providers (ISPs) registered with the National Telecommunications Commission as of 2006

2 million – Estimated number of Internet subscribers in 2006

7.9 million – Estimated number of Friendster users in the Philippines

12 – Number of award categories in the Philippine Blog Awards

P2,500 – Entry fee for websites competing in the Philippine Web Awards, except for the Blogs, Organizations and Personal categories

67 percent – Percentage of members of classes ABCD in the Greater Manila area* who have Internet access at home, according to results of Synovate's Media Atlas survey as of June, 2007

**Greater Manila Area includes Metro Manila and nearby Meycauayan in Bulacan, Bacoor in Cavite, San Pedro in Laguna, Cainta in Rizal, and Antipolo City.*

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research
Sources: National Telecommunications Commission Official Website, Inquirer Archives, Philippine Web Awards, Philippine Blog Awards

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	8	2	1					
5				8			3	
3			4			5		
4		6						
	9			3			2	
						8		1
		9			7			5
	5			2				4
					1	7	8	

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★ Answers in PDI, Oct. 1 issue

Answer to previous puzzle
PDI, Sept.29

1	9	3	4	5	8	7	6	2
5	6	2	3	7	9	8	4	1
4	7	8	6	1	2	5	9	3
9	5	6	7	4	1	2	3	8
3	2	4	9	8	5	6	1	7
8	1	7	2	3	6	9	5	4
7	3	5	8	9	4	1	2	6
2	8	9	1	6	3	4	7	5
6	4	1	5	2	7	3	8	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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Auction Heroes (from page 5)

mostly toys and collectibles through brick-and-mortar stores in Greenhills, Makati and Manila. Malvin John Lim, 27, and his brother Jesus, Jr., 31, are the proprietors. Two years before it had a physical store, Greattoys was already selling its wares on eBay. Lim also sells on Bidshot, and is presently pondering the idea of selling on Auction.ph. He notes however that eBay is special because of the "brand name backing and integration of eBay.ph with eBay." He cites several advantages of selling on eBay: "lower operating expenses and (better) product exposure online compared to the walk-in store."

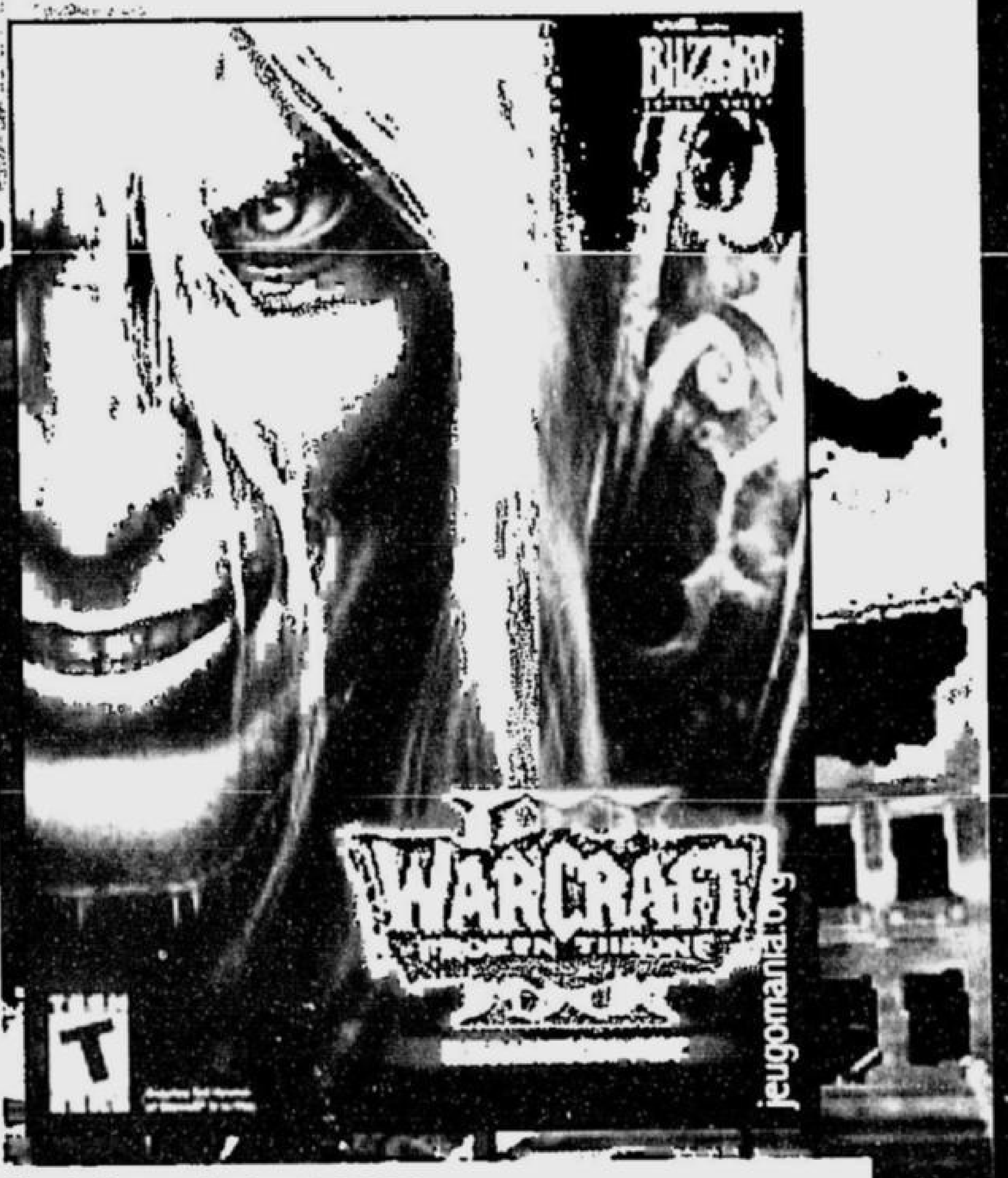
Greattoys, claims Lim, is doing very well on eBay, with "approximately 200 transactions" monthly. In fact Greattoys has an eBay slate of over 5,000 transactions. Aside from the toys, such as Transformers and Star Wars, Lim says they sell a lot of Li-ning Shaquille O'Neal basketball shoes and RekindledMoments.com Scrapbooking products. And though he sells on eBay's main site, Lim says his Philippines-based eBay clients can pick up the items themselves at any of his stores.

But challenges remain even for a seller with such a high volume of sales. Lim says he has to overcome concerns about payment methods, as well as his pet peeve, "bogus sellers and unserious buyers." That last bit is important because Lim, like many sellers on eBay, is a buyer as well. Lim's eBay presence is so serious that he actually has an eBay store, which is a dedicated page for his items instead of just having them lumped with items from other sellers. Indeed, Lim gets what he sells on eBay from his store, "to have access to a bigger client base."

With such a large turnover, Lim did his homework and found the shipping method that best suited him, as he is selling to buyers in the United States for example. He also notes that eBay boasts of eBay seller protection: "If buyers don't pay, you can file a 'non-paying bidder warning,' and most buyers immediately act upon the warning. Those who don't pay also risk being kicked out of eBay."

Flores and Lim both advise prospective eBay sellers to craft honest and accurate descriptions of their items and take new photographs of the actual products for sale. "Buyers would like to see what the product really looks like," she clarifies. She says it would be possible for Filipino sellers to sell full-time like their American counterparts, but not just yet. eBay Philippines, she says, is still a work-in-progress. "On a rating of one to ten, I would rate it a five." Lim agrees: "There's still a lot of work to be done."

Flores however believes that Filipinos are made for eBay. "Although Filipinos love the malls, they also love the Internet very much," she says. "Once they try checking out items on eBay and get to know how it works, they'll get addicted to it." Lim concurs. "My experience has been very exciting," he says. "And I will continue to sell as long as there is eBay and the Internet."•



Real-time strategy game

Play for Pay

RAGNAROK

The mother of Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Games (MMOPRG) is a quantum leap from pre-millennial role-playing games like Dungeons & Dragons and Magic: The Gathering. There are many identities to choose from, but the simple menus make it easy to get started. The visuals are detailed, in fact crisply stunning, despite the crowding in most battle scenes. Funny, though, that in network gaming, you have to call attention offline to your friends so you won't get struck by friendly fire.

Warcraft III: The Frozen Throne

There are single player and multi-player features in this real-time strategy game. Both options build strongly on the usual formula: raise resources, create an army, and embark on a mission. The overall mission is to mount various campaigns on enemy territory for honor, glory and money. The game is supposedly driven by artificial intelligence, and the graphics, as well as its game plan, speak of massive doses of smarts in producing the game.

RF Online

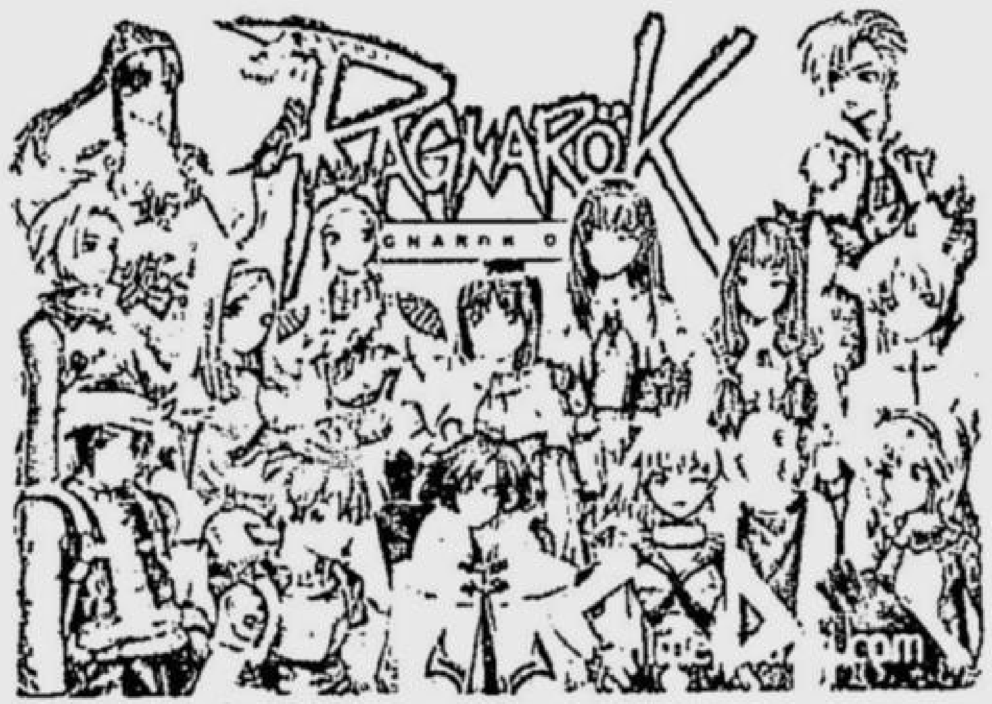
This MMOPRG is played out as a battle for supremacy among three races of civilization. Your choice is to be part of a race of robots (the Accretia), the spell-casting Cora, and the innocent-looking Bellatio. You then build resources for your chosen race and scheme to attack the other races. A major distraction are the Chip Wars that happen periodically and last for three hours, with the winner rewarded with access to a mine load of riches. The game also has its pseudo-educational feature, wherein a player manages a race's economy to improve its war chest. In the end, "RF Online" offers cool battle scenes that will feed your lust for blood over solid plots and storylines.

R.O.S.E. Online

Short for "Rush On Seven Episodes," "R.O.S.E." looks and feels like "Ragnarok" viewed and played as MMORPG anime. It takes its cue from Ragnarok minus the thrill of human kill. You begin as some kind of weird gardener and deal death instead to ant-like creatures, jelly beans and caterpillars. There are seven planets to roam and you "level up" your quests as you move on in the face of more menacing opponents. The look and feel of "R.O.S.E." may sidetrack its appeal to the teen crowd but its blend of fantasy and sci-fi should make it an all-ages outing.

Call of Duty

World War II is a rich source of ideas, mostly dated ones, on shoot-'em-up online games. In "Call of Duty," the only things passé are its gameplay taking place from the player's viewpoint, and a whole army of Krauts dying to plug a bullet into your brain. Everything else, which includes a kamikaze bunny that pops up without warning and attacks at will, looks fresh and scary. You have no choice but to shoot at anything that moves. There's an armory of old-school weapons (e.g., vintage rifles) at your command, which is good enough for close in-fighting that happens far too often.



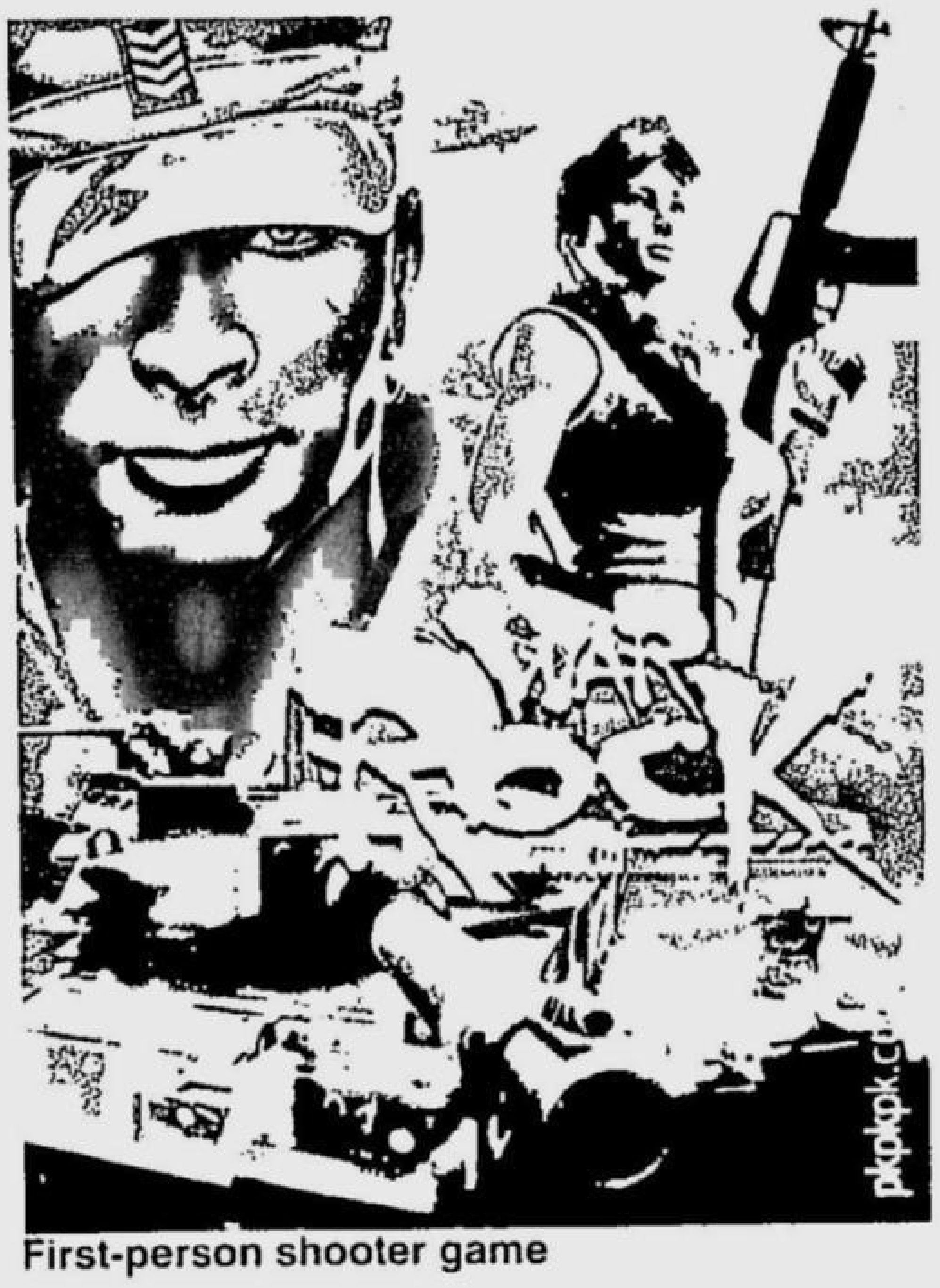
Detailed visuals

With this game, simply blasting away another human being to kingdom come feels very, very good.

War Rock

Another first-person shooter game where you can participate in three different modes: infantry, mission and vehicle. Made by a Korean company, the game takes its cue from "Counterstrike!" and proceeds to "level up" the ante to, say, the vehicle mode. The crack of fired weapons is sharp and the sigh of dying enemies is creepily realistic. It's another credible shoot-'em-up to send baddies to an early grave.• **Tony M. Maghirang**

bbs.gzeasy.com

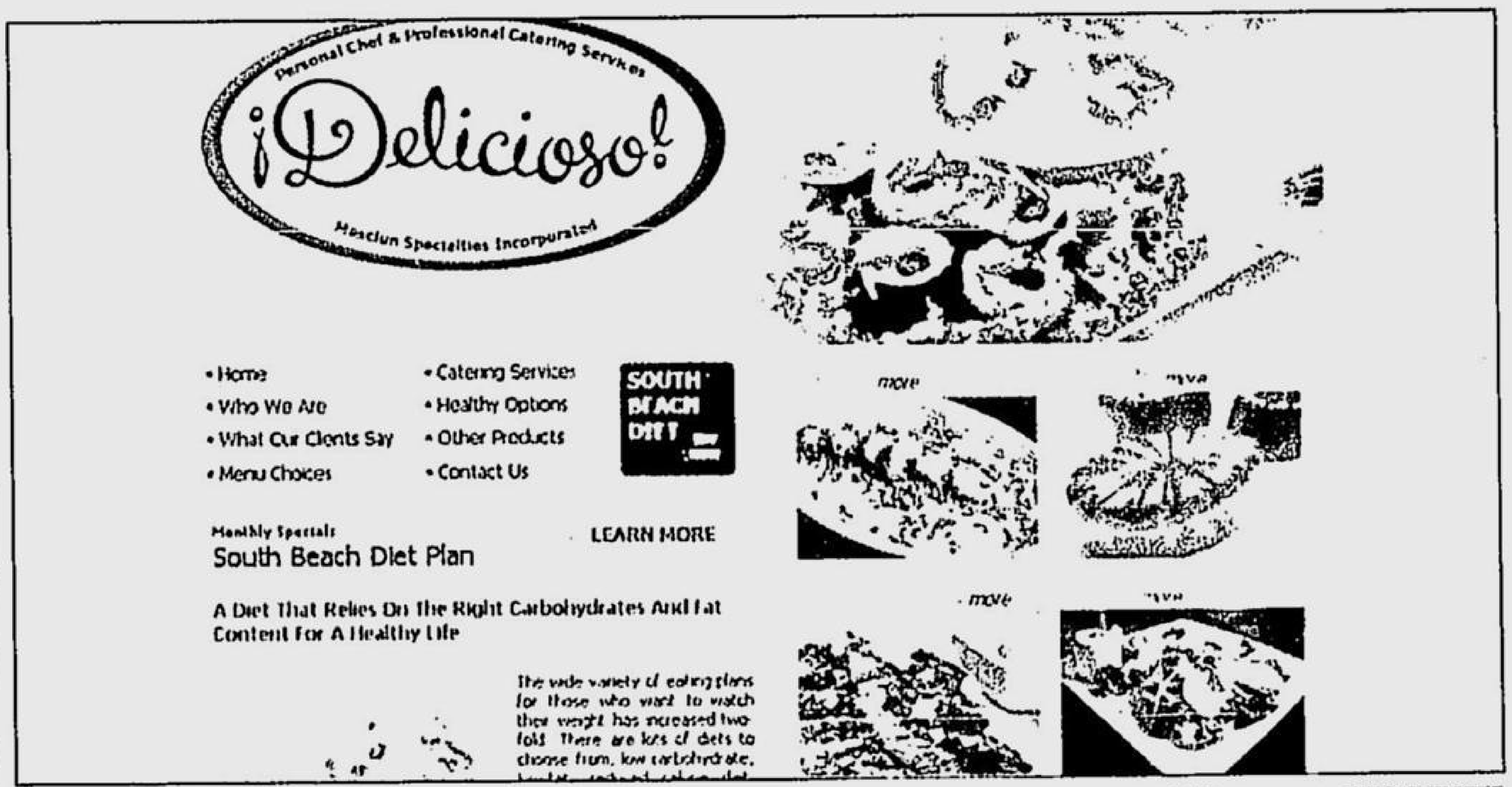


First-person shooter game

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

business.com

Why put up a store, pay rent and hire a lot of people when you can sell your stuff online at minimal costs? And you get to stay home too!



Monthly Specials

South Beach Diet Plan

A Diet That Relies On The Right Carbohydrates And Fat Content For A Healthy Life

The wide variety of eating plans for those who want to watch their weight has increased two-fold. There are lots of diets to choose from, low carbohydrate,

Convenient: The Delicioso home page

THANKS to advances in technology, today's entrepreneurs no longer have to set up shop to sell their goods or advertise their services. They now have the option to just invest in an eye-catching, informative and easy-to-use website targetting millions of Internet users as potential clients.

This is exactly what artist Charie Altea, accessories maker Veronica Maclang, chef Jill Busuego and personal care products maker Cathy Mahusay did.

Altea sells paintings on canvas and pendants made of mother-of-pearl. Since most of her art clients are based abroad, it did not make sense for her to put up a store in the country.

A website—www.cheriealtea.com—that can easily be accessed by clients abroad seemed more logical and easier on the pocket. The 30-year-old Altea says she spent minimal costs for professionals to put up her site two years ago and spends about $75 a year to maintain it. The costs vary depending on the memory consumed by the site.

"It will cost more if your site has animation and moving objects because they use up more memory. Since mine is static, I don't need that much memory," she says. Clients log on to her site, check out her products and then either e-mail or contact her by phone to place orders. Her site is just a "window" to her products; transactions are consummated offline.

The cost of setting up and maintaining a website is "nothing" compared to the expense and headache of getting space in a mall, for instance, and it suits Altea just fine.

From just featuring paintings and mother-of-pearl accessories when she set up the website in 2005, Altea is now into producing notecards and other stuff featuring her art. Soon, she will venture into creating designer lifestyle products geared to the global market.

For Chef Jill Ignacio-Busuego, running a business through a website—www.deliciosophilippines.com—has another major benefit aside from lower costs; it allows her to spend more time with her 5-year-old twin sons. "If I have a restaurant, I will have to be there every day. With just a website, I can choose to have my weekends free. It is easier and more convenient," Busuego says.

She says she invested a little over P15,000 in her website that went live in March this year, mainly to get connected to a payment facility.

This means that clients can check out her products—all the photos and descriptions are there—and pay for them online through credit card. The design and execution of her website that features her menus, South Beach diet options and testimonials by clients cost her less than P10,000. Busuego says she has a small kitchen and 10 employees to help her out.

Clients can choose to pick up their orders themselves or have them delivered because she doesn't have dine-in facilities, says this chef. But her customers don't seem to mind, judging from her widening client base, with orders coming from as far as Davao. "I am also getting known through word of mouth without having to put up my own store," she adds.

But if entrepreneurs are not willing to shell out some cash for a website, then there are the free sites to choose from—like the popular social networking site multiply.com—to display items for sale, which was what Maclang and Mahusay chose to do.

Maclang sells her line of accessories through her one-year-old www.aritosjewellery.multiply.co. The 25-year-old designer says that she is happy with her site because it did not cost her a lot to put it up and yet she gets to reach out to a huge online community. With a growing clientele, she has expanded her products to include her other artistic pursuits, such as costume design.

Mahusay shares the same experience and agrees that running a business around a website is more efficient because she does not need to stock up on inventory. She can also run the business from home.
All she needs is a computer to keep track of her orders through her one-month-old www.bathandbodydesserts.multiply.com. The 36-year-old entrepreneur, who also runs a dance school, says she invested P15,000 in her initial inventory and easily recovered the investment. "The response has been very good; actually, surprisingly good," Mahusay says.

Donald Lim, president and CEO of leading website www.yehey.com says, however, that while many companies are establishing an online presence, it will take a long while before transactions online can put a dent on sales through actual retail outlets. Lim estimates that online sales, even in established markets such as the United States, account for less than 10 percent of retail sales.

But this has not discouraged entrepreneurs from going online. As long as they have good products to sell, buyers will always be just a click away.•

Online and In Tune... (from page 9)

www.starrecords.ph, her label's site, and log in.

"They'll need to get a prepaid card and an electronic PIN at a load or card central like Netopia, and log in at the website. Then they can download the songs at P12 per song," she explains.

You heard that right, P12 per song. Compare that with iTunes' 99 cents (about P44) per song—or the current P250 per CD—and do the math.

Acel admits it's a stab into the unknown. "We don't have any feedback yet as to how the downloads are doing," she says. "We also don't know if any anti-piracy software has been installed, but we think this is the next phase."

Although she only decided to go solo this year, Acel is already a veteran of the music scene, having come of age during the immediate post-Eraserheads alternative music boom of the mid-'90s.

As an angsty, Doc Martens-clad punkette, Acel cut her teeth at the legendary venue Club Dredd with her first band, Orphan Lily. "I never thought I would be a performer," she says. "I grew up insecure and with an inferiority complex because throughout high school, I had to wear a body brace for my scoliosis."

Acel on her music: "It's emotional with stellar melodies."

But she also grew up with a love for music. Her parents, both professors of creative writing, literature and grammar in Filipino and noted textbook authors, had a taste for Broadway musicals. Her elder brother was also into theater and influenced her toward the performing arts. So when a neighbor asked her to join his band, Acel immediately said yes.

"If you love what you're doing, you'll really work to overcome whatever hinders you from doing that," she says. "But even then, it took me years to overcome my shyness. At Club Dredd, I would sing with my eyes closed. I just stood there like a stump. But the other bands around encouraged and helped me out, and kind of mentored me in a way. They'd say, *'Acel, tumingin ka naman sa tao.'*"

Eventually, she overcame her shyness, she says, because she had to shout Orphan Lily's angsty, pop-punk lyrics. Orphan Lily managed to land a record deal with Polyeast Records, but disbanded soon after. Acel's next outfit, Moonstar 88, was a mellower and more commercial proposition, steeped in Acel's love for singer-songwriter music by the likes of the Sundays and Tori Amos. They immediately landed a record deal and released their debut "Popcorn" in 2001. The band scored with "*Torete*," and followed up with a second album "Press to Play."

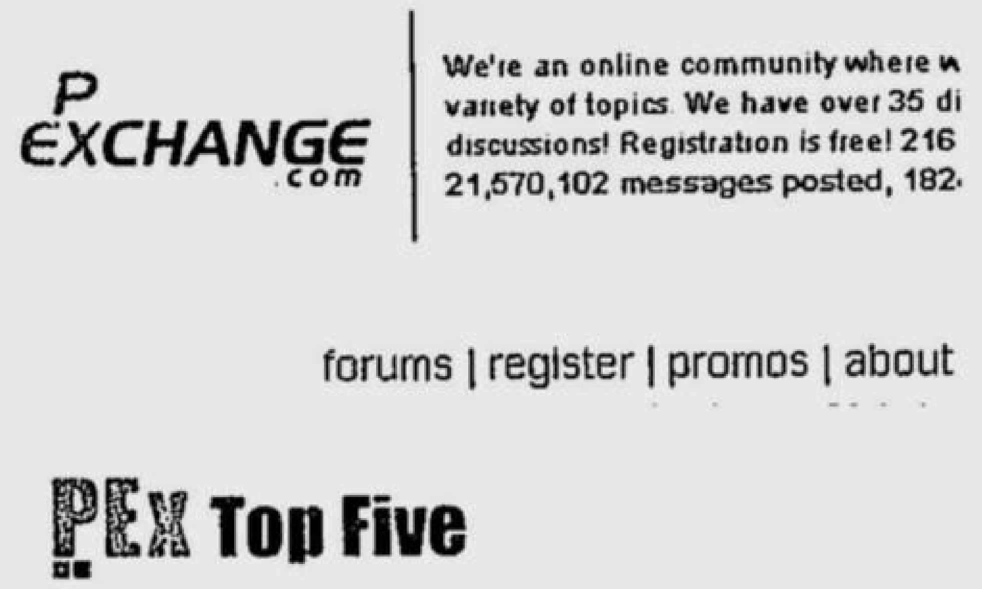
Meanwhile, Acel was discovering a talent for songwriting, inherited perhaps from her parents' literary proclivities. "I started writing after I left Orphan Lily. I wrote almost all the songs for Moonstar's first album," she recalls. "Then for the second album, I encouraged the other members to write so we divided the songwriting duties. I write mostly in English, but a lot of people who've heard me, say my strength is in Tagalog lyrics and how I sing them."

In 2004, Acel left Moonstar 88 to marry her Dutch-Indonesian-Nepali fiancée and take a two-year hiatus from music. During that time, she helped a friend set up and manage a recording studio. But watching other artists recording their songs rekindled her love for music, and by last year, she had already written enough material for her solo debut. Earlier this year, she signed with Cornerstone Talent Management, the same outfit managing glamor-boy Sam Milby, which helped set her solo career in motion.

Acel describes her current music as "easy listening, relaxed driving music"—perhaps a reflection of her settled life and matured outlook on things. "It's emotional, with stellar melodies," she says, admitting to being influenced by Brit pop by the likes of Keane, Coldplay and U2.

"My sister-in-law, who's a graphic artist, told me, 'when I listen to your music I feel like I'm swimming under the stars.'"•

Who are the people... (from page 7)



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PEX Top Five

Speaking their minds: Pinoy Exchange

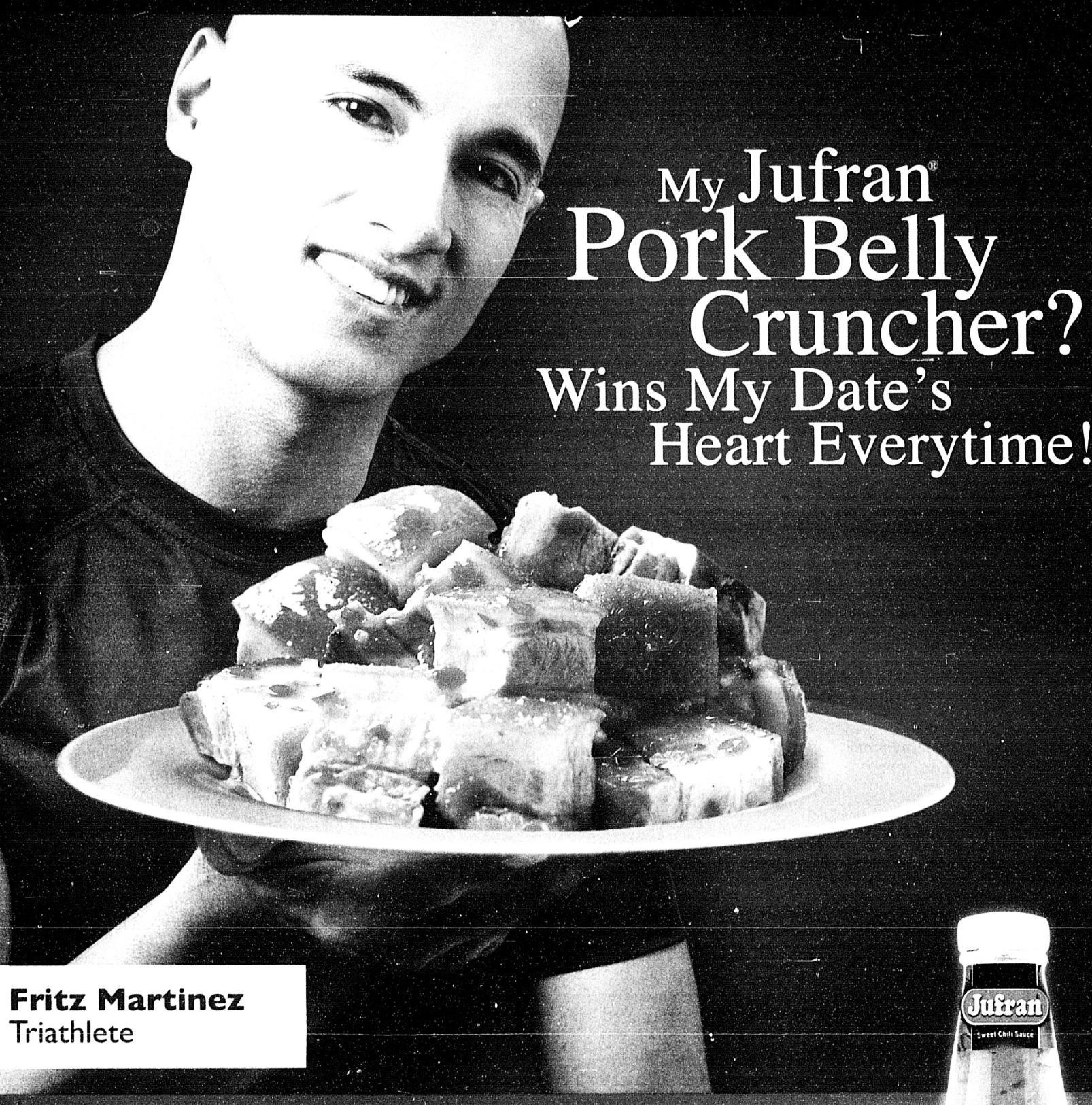
e-mail," he adds.

"Some of my friends I met through Eskwela," Pua reveals. "But more imprtantly, Eskwela reinforces offline relationships especially among school peers and colleagues who otherwise might only say 'hello' when passing down the hall."

For Petri, online communities definitely help enhance a sense of community among Filipino expatriates. "Meeting these people in the flesh for the first time then becomes a lot easier. You are spared the long silent pauses or the awkward what-the-hell-should-I-say-next discomfort. Instead, it feels like you've known each other all your life and still have lots more to say."

So don't worry: Wherever you may be, the right online community is out there for you.•

The author is the gaming and multimedia editor of INQUIRER.net. E-mail him at joey.alarilla@inquirer.net and visit his blog at http://blogs.inquirer.net/atplay/.



My Jufran® Pork Belly Cruncher? Wins My Date's Heart Everytime!

Fritz Martinez
Triathlete

With Jufran® Sweet Chili Sauce, your cooking is sure to impress! Cook daily for your family, friends and loved ones using Jufran® Sweet Chili Sauce–now with the all new look and still the same unique flavor. Go ahead! Experiment! The only limit is your imagination!

And if Fritz can do it for his date, you can, too. Make your own winning version of his yummy recipe.

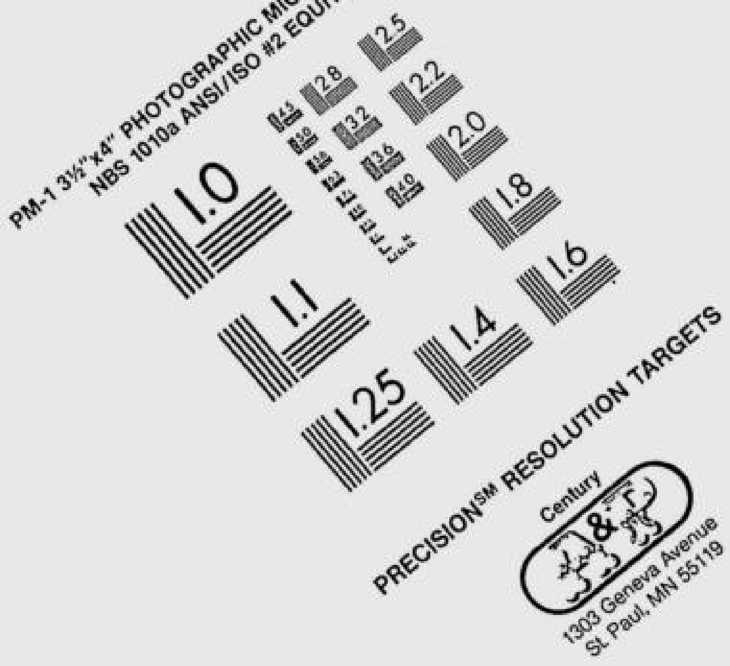
Just toss the following in a pot: 1 kilo pork liempo, 2 pcs bay leaves, 1 tbsp cracked black peppercorns, 5 pcs star anise, 1 tbsp five-spice powder, 1/4 cup fish sauce, 2 tsps salt, 2 tbsps chopped ginger and 16 cups of water. Cover and cook until pork liempo is fork tender.

While waiting for liempo to tenderize, do a few sit-ups. After, you can prepare the glaze. Just mix 1/8 tsp five-spice powder, juice of 1/2 an orange, zest of 1 orange, salt and pepper, and 1/2 cup Jufran® Sweet Chili Sauce.

Soon, pork will be tender. Let sit to cool and dry for 3 hours or more. Then deep fry in oil until golden brown. Chop. Heat glaze and apply on pork.

Serve to the sure to be applauding date. How about you?

What's your Jufran® today?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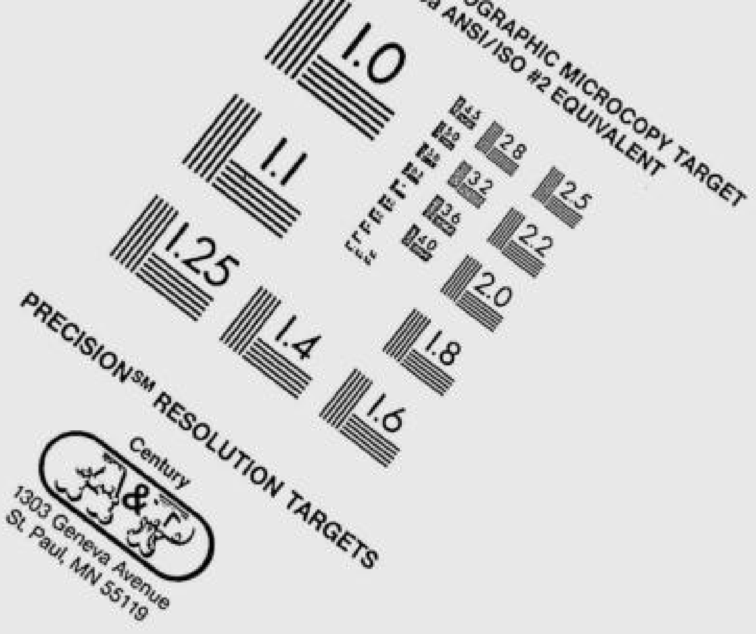
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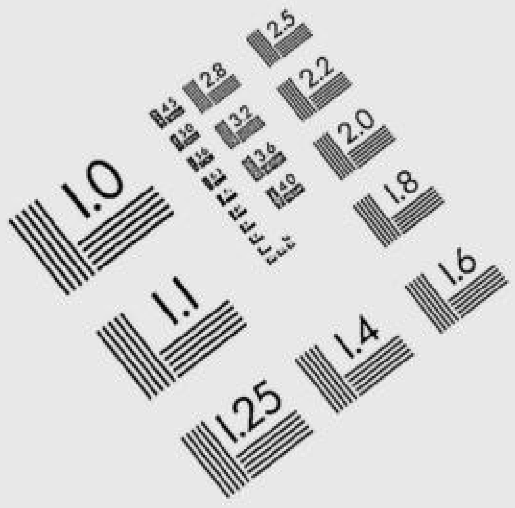
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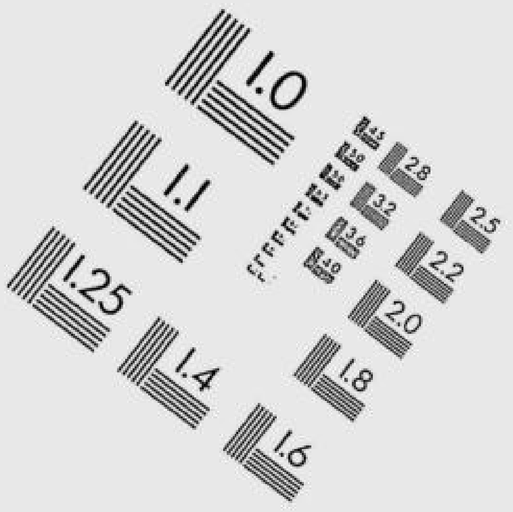
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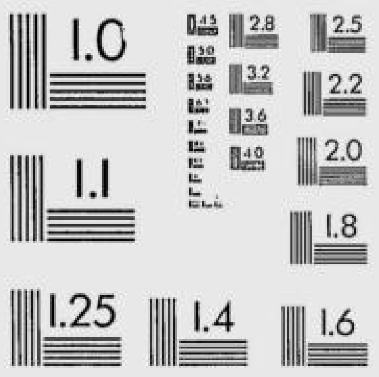
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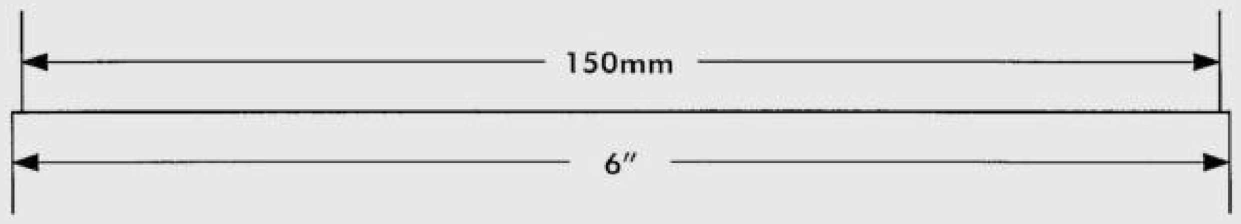

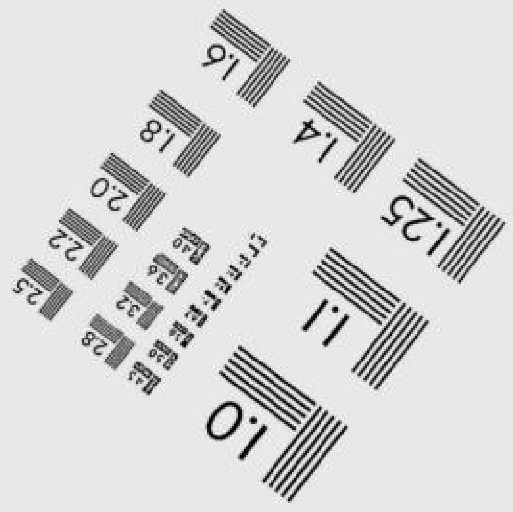
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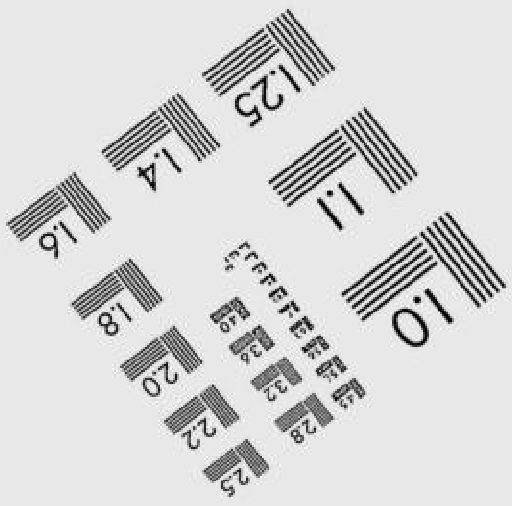
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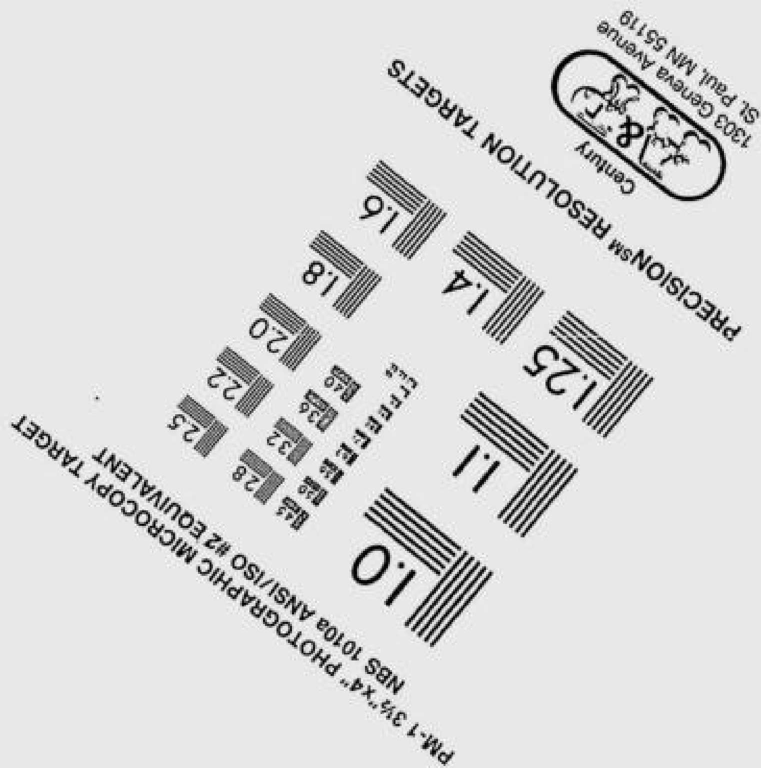
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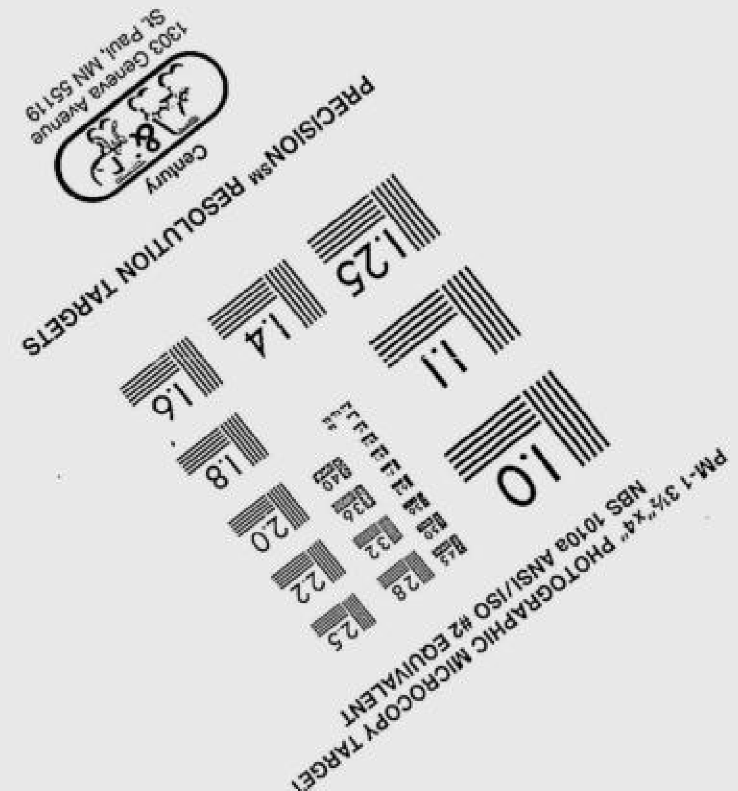
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